

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#0

COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



Fathom Created by
Michael Turner

VOLUME THREE
Issue Zero

FATHOM

J.T. KRUL
story

ALÉ GARZA
pencils

SAL REGLA
inks

JOHN STARR
colors

JOSH REED
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MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 3 Issue 0

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OURS IS AN ANCIENT
EXISTENCE, ONE
MASKED IN SECRECY.
FROM THIS TOO BLIND
TO SEE THE TRUTH.

OUR MINDS TOO
LIMITED TO
ACCEPT IT.

UNLIKE THE LESSER CREATURES
OF THIS WORLD, WE CAN TRACE
OUR ORIGINS BACK TO THE
VERY BEGINNING WHEN THE
WATER PROVIDED THE SPARK
FOR ALL LIFE.



WE NEVER GOT CONFUSED
BY OUR STORIES, LOST IN
OUR OWN HEADS, TRYING
TO EXPLAIN OUR EXISTENCE
IN SOME OTHER FASHION.



WE NEVER TRIED
TO SEPARATE OUR-
SELVES FROM THE
ULTIMATE TEST.

AND SO WE HAVE NEVER
FORGOTTEN OUR HERITAGE
OR OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD.

OR OUR
POWER.





THE WATER IS THE
BEGINNING-- THE
ORIGIN OF ALL LIFE
ON THIS PLANET.

WE ARE THE WATER.

AND THE
WATER IS US.

WE ARE THE BLACK.

WHILE NOT AS MUDDLED AS THE SURFACE DWELLERS, THE BLUE HAVE SETTLED IN SHALLOWER DEPTHS, NOT SURE IF THEIR FUTURE RESTS ABOVE OR BELOW.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF RECENT CONFLICTS WITH THE HUMANS, NEW BLOOD HAS TAKEN ON THE HELM OF LEADERSHIP.

PERHAPS WE CAN GUIDE HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THE CHALLENGES THEY WILL FACE IN THE AGE TO COME.





SIPHON.



CANNON, HOW
DID YOU KNOW
WHERE TO FIND
ME?

SHOULDN'T
THE CAPTAIN OF
THE COUNCIL'S SECURITY
FORCE ALWAYS KNOW THE
WHEREABOUTS OF THE
HIGH COUNSELOR?

BESIDES,
EVERYBODY NEEDS
THEIR FRIENDS... EVEN
THE ONES WE'VE
LOST.

ESPECIALLY
AT TIMES LIKE
THESE.

TRY AS THEY MIGHT, THE BLUE SIMPLY CANNOT PUT SUCH CONFLICTS BEHIND THEM.

FIGURING OUT WHAT TO DO WITH A HUMAN PRISONER IS NOT AN EASY SOLUTION.

UNLESS OF COURSE YOU ARE LIKE THE REST OF THE COUNCIL AND CONSIDER EXECUTION EASY.



THE HUMANS MAY HAVE BROUGHT A WAR TO OUR CAPITAL CITY, BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TAKING A LIFE IN BATTLE AND OUTRIGHT MURDER.

*SEE FATHOM VOL. 2 FOR MORE DETAILS.

WELL, THIS MIGHT CHANGE THE OPTIONS YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE FROM.

WHAT DO YOU MEANT IS HE SICK? DYING?

NO...

... HE'S TALKING.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT???

FOR BOTH THE BLUE AND THE HUMANS, WAR CAN NEVER TRULY BE FORGOTTEN. FOR THE REMINDERS OF SUCH TURBULENT TIMES ARE LEGION— BE THEY PHYSICAL...

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO.

...OR PSYCHOLOGICAL.

REPORTS COMING
IN DETAIL EXTENSIVE DAMAGE
TO TWO NAVAL SUBMARINES AS WELL
AS THE FLEET'S PREMIER AIRCRAFT
CARRIER, THE USS ARIZONA. SO FAR, THE
DEATH TOLL STANDS AT SEVENTY-TWO
IN WHAT THE PENTAGON IS CALLING A
TRAGIC ACCIDENT DURING AN
INTENSE TRAINING
EXERCISE.

BUT, WE
ARE ALSO GETTING
INFORMATION SUGGESTING
THAT THIS DISASTER IS ACTUALLY
THE RESULT OF A CONFRONTATION
WITH CHINA'S NAVAL FORCES
IN INTERNATIONAL
WATERS.

THE PRESIDENT,
WHO HAS BEEN ON THE
PHONE MOST OF THE MORNING
WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN
NAVAL PERSONNEL, HAS DENIED ANY
SUCH ALTERCATION WITH CHINA. WE
NOW GO TO AMANDA WALKER AT
THE WHITE HOUSE FOR MORE
ON THIS BREAKING
STORY...

WELL, YOU GOT
IT HALF RIGHT. IT
WAS A CONFRONTATION,
BUT AGAINST SOMETHING
FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN
CHINA. WE HAD ONE CHANCE
TO BLAST THE BLUE OUTTA
THE WATER, AND WE
FAILED.

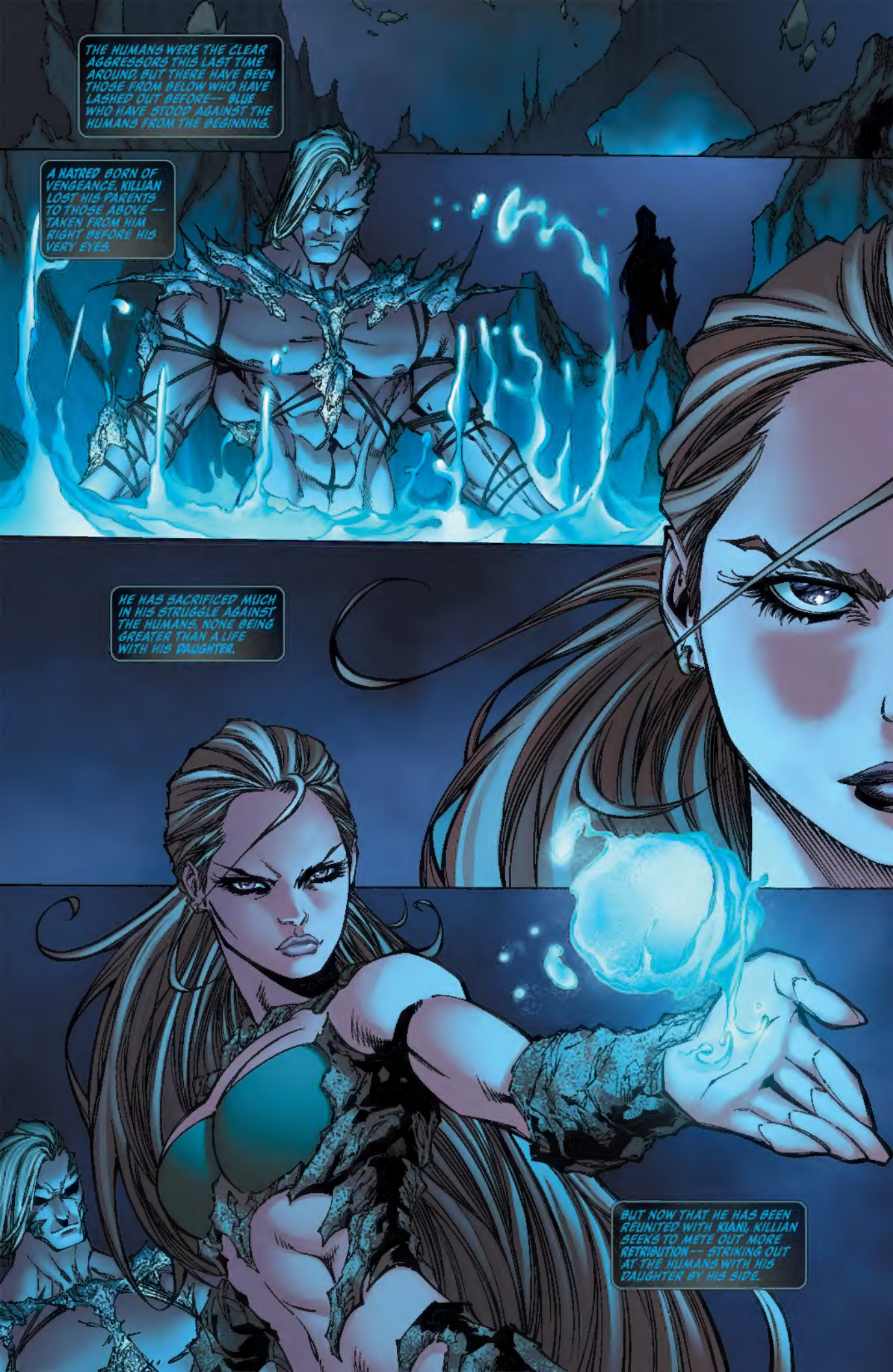
I
FAILED.

THE HUMANS WERE THE CLEAR AGGRESSORS THIS LAST TIME AROUND, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN THOSE FROM BELOW WHO HAVE LASHED OUT BEFORE— BLUE WHO HAVE STOOD AGAINST THE HUMANS FROM THE BEGINNING.

A HATRED BORN OF VENGEANCE, KILLIAN LOST HIS PARENTS TO THOSE ABOVE — TAKEN FROM HIM RIGHT BEFORE HIS VERY EYES.

HE HAS SACRIFICED MUCH IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE HUMANS, NONE BEING GREATER THAN A LIFE WITH HIS DAUGHTER.

BUT NOW THAT HE HAS BEEN REUNITED WITH KIANE, KILLIAN SEEKS TO METE OUT MORE RETRIBUTION — STRIKING OUT AT THE HUMANS WITH HIS DAUGHTER BY HIS SIDE.





TEMA, MEXICO.

AND STILL SOMEWHERE
OUT THERE IS A GUY
CREATING A BOTTLE
THEY'RE TRYING
TO FIND

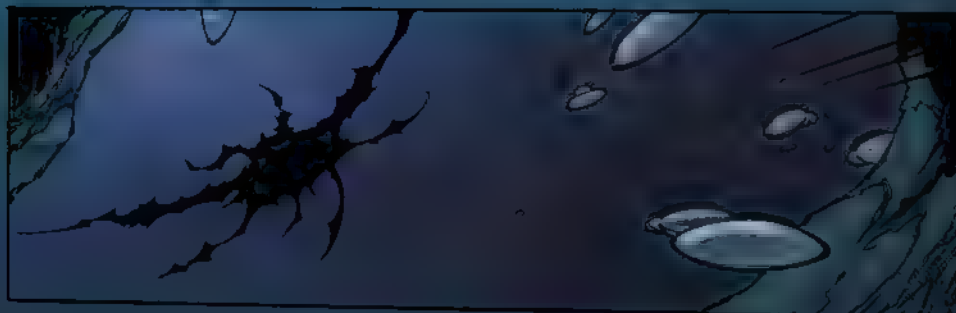
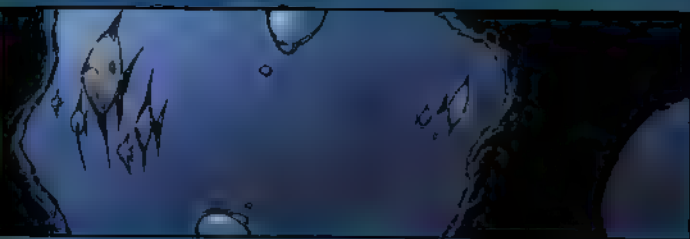
ARMEN WAS A RESULT OF
A FRAGILE UNION BETWEEN
THE LEADER OF THE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY
AND A WOMAN FROM
THE SOUTH



SHE HAD NEVER LEARNED
OF HER OWN RACE
UNTIL SHE WAS
ABLE TO
FIND







¡ESPERA...
THE OT...
¡PERO...
WORK...

TO BE
CONTINUED...



#1
OF 10
COVER A

WILLIS TOWERS FATHOM



ALEXANDROZK8
REACT

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#1
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COVER B



MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#1
OF 10
COVER C

MICHAEL T. TURNER
FATHOM



MICHAEL
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For Aspen

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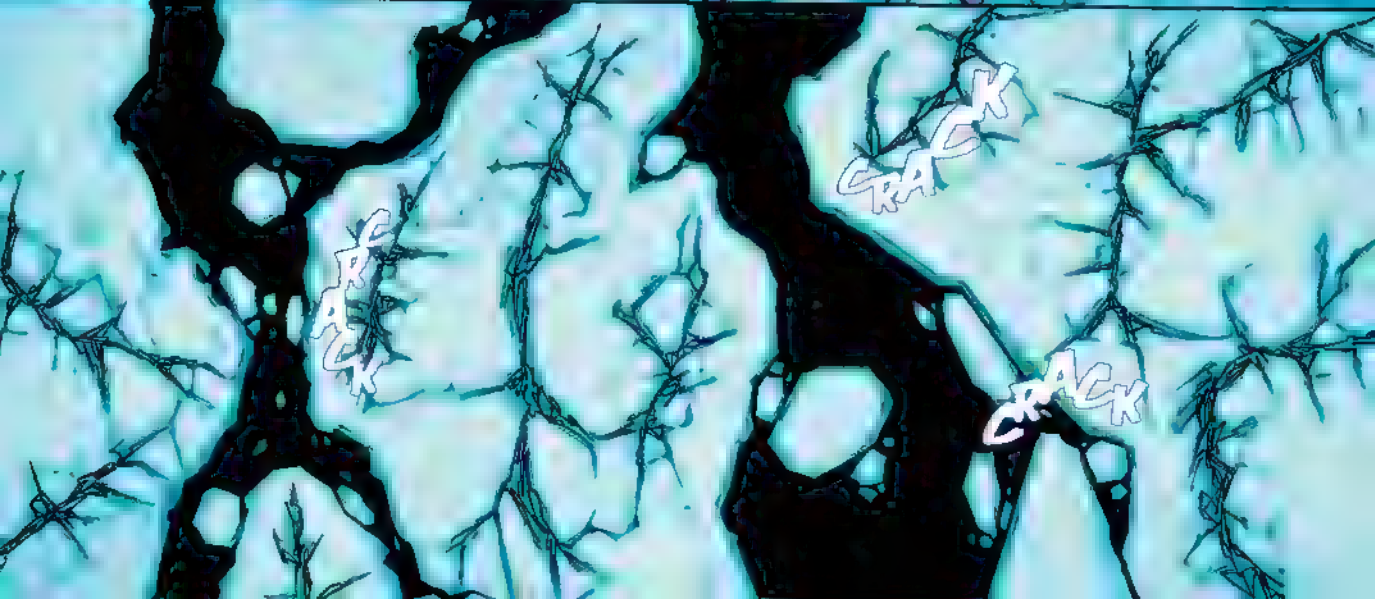
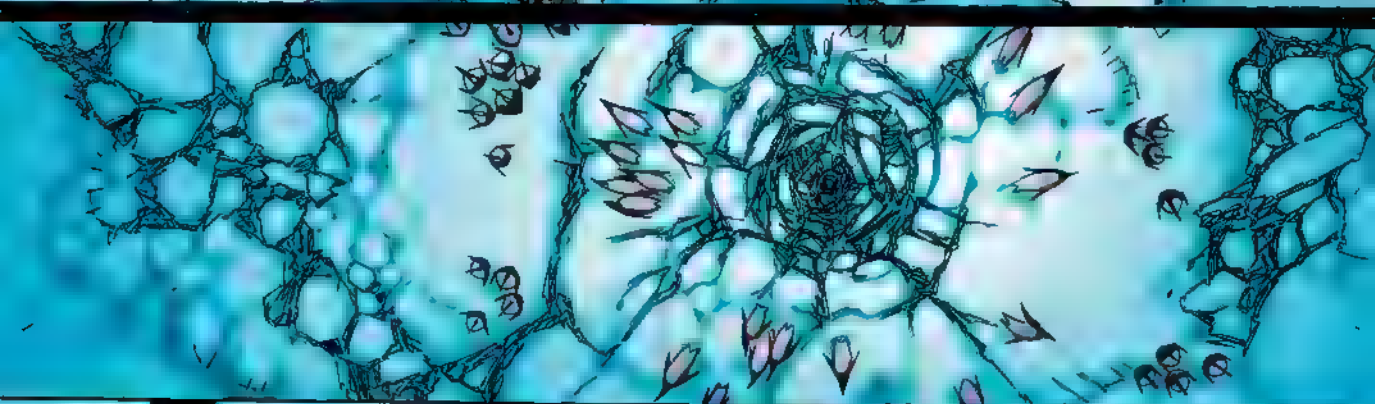
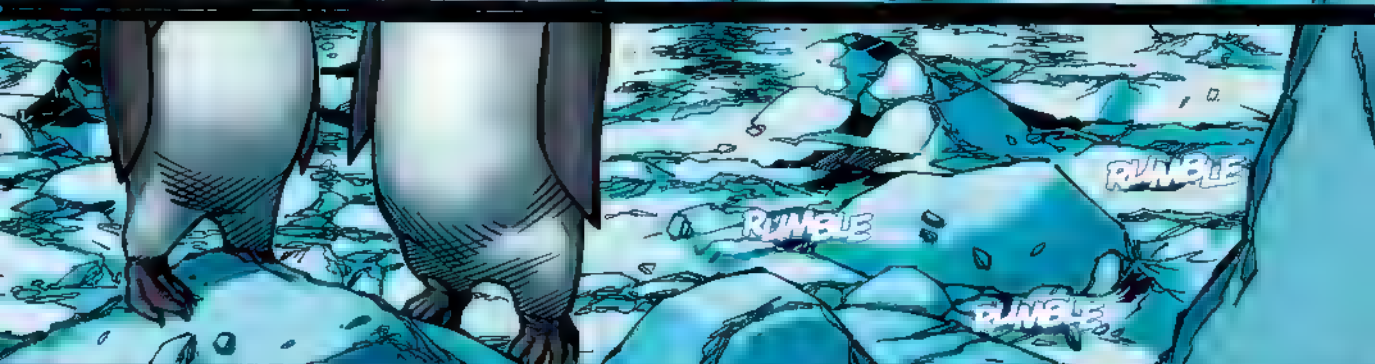
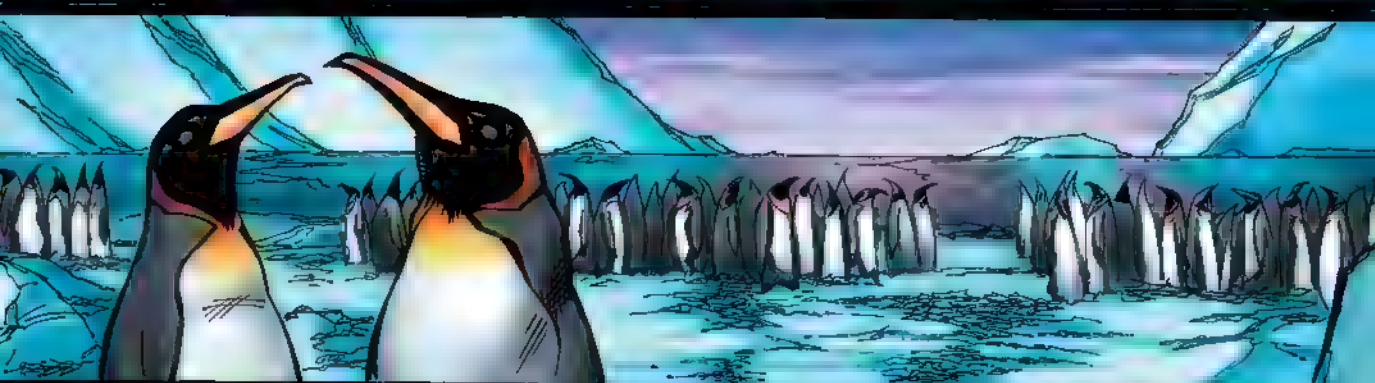
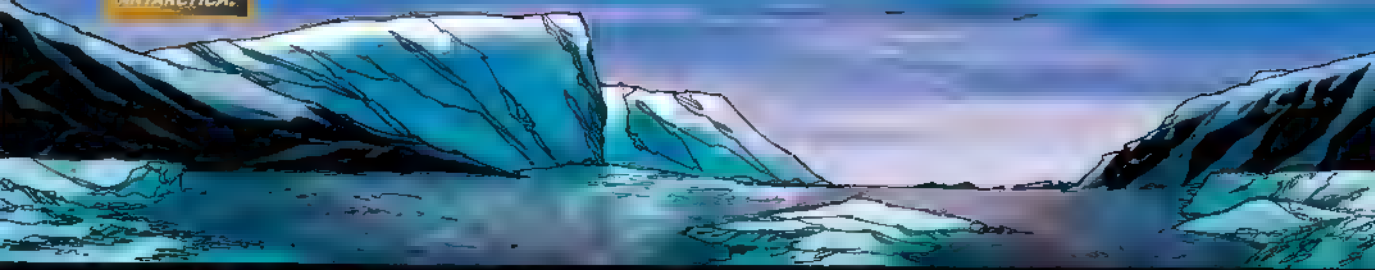
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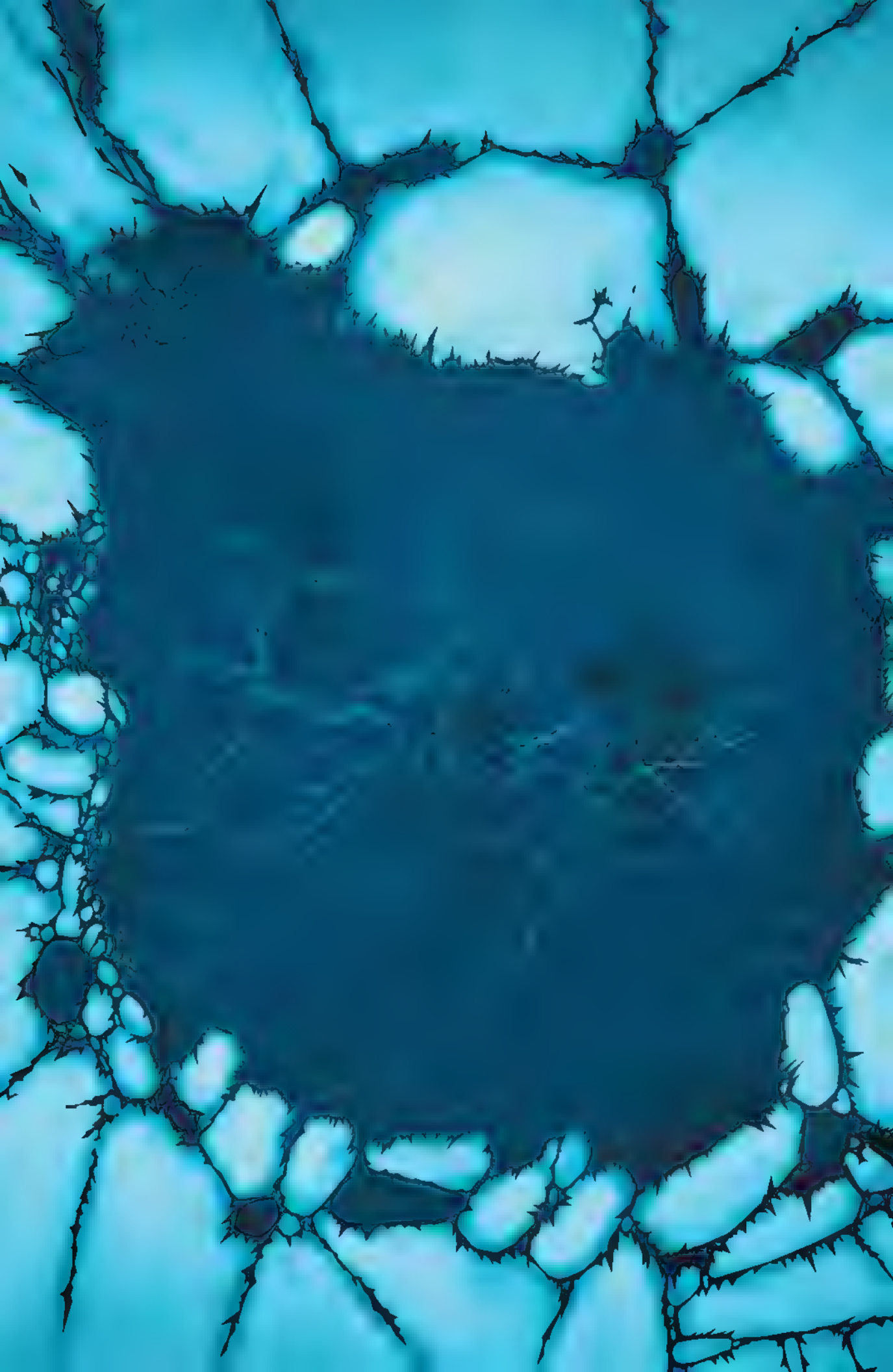
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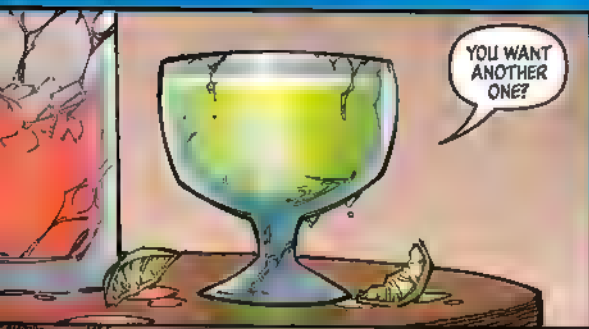
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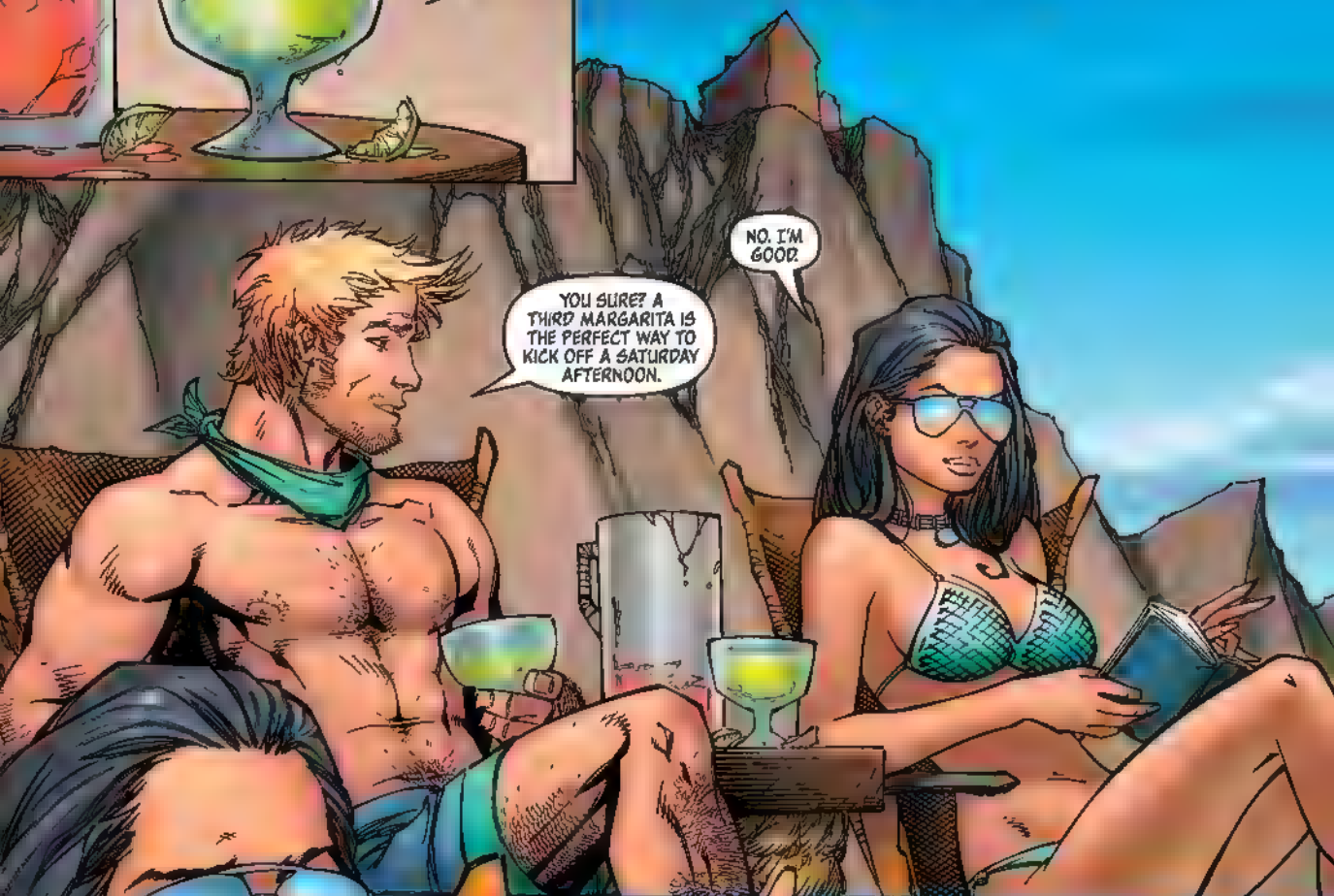






YOU WANT ANOTHER ONE?

MEXICO.



NO, I'M GOOD.

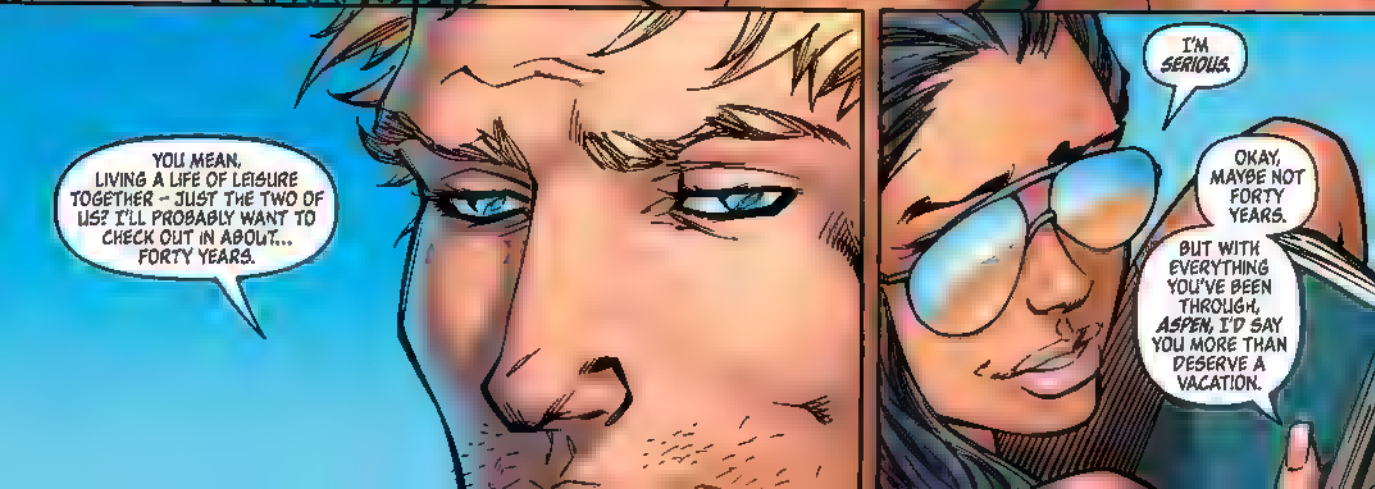
YOU SURE? A THIRD MARGARITA IS THE PERFECT WAY TO KICK OFF A SATURDAY AFTERNOON.



CHANCE THAT WAS MY THIRD.

AND, IT'S TUESDAY.

HOW LONG CAN WE KEEP DOING THIS?



YOU MEAN, LIVING A LIFE OF LEISURE TOGETHER - JUST THE TWO OF US? I'LL PROBABLY WANT TO CHECK OUT IN ABOUT... FORTY YEARS.

I'M SERIOUS.

OKAY, MAYBE NOT FORTY YEARS.

BUT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, ASPEN, I'D SAY YOU MORE THAN DESERVE A VACATION.

BUT, I
DON'T WANT A
VACATION.

I'VE ACCEPTED
THAT I'M NOT LIKE REGULAR
PEOPLE. HELL, I'M NOT EVEN
REALLY *HUMAN*. CHANCE, BUT, I
WANT MY LIFE BACK, AND NOT THE
ONE WHERE I'M CAUGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF A WAR BETWEEN
THE U.S. NAVY AND THE
BLUE.

EVEN THOUGH I'M
ONE OF THEM, I WANT TO
GO BACK. BEFORE THE *BLUE*...
BEFORE THE *BLACK*... BEFORE ALL
THIS CRAZINESS HAPPENED. I
WANT TO GO HOME - BACK TO
SAN DIEGO AND JUST...
JUST LIVE MY LIFE.

ASPEN, THE LAST
CONTACT YOU HAD WITH THE
UNITED STATES *DEMOLISHED* AN
AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND DISABLED
TWO SUBMARINES. LONG STORY
SHORT, I DON'T SEE A BORDER
CROSSING IN OUR IMMEDIATE
FUTURE.

LUCKY FOR YOU, I AM
JUST AS UNPOPULAR WHERE
THE U.S. MILITARY IS CONCERNED. I
THINK THEIR OFFICIAL TERM WOULD BE
TRAITOR. SO DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE
OUTLAWS TOGETHER... LIKE BUTCH
AND SUNDANCE... THELMA
AND LOUISE...

CHANCE...

TOM AND
JERRY?

WELL, I GUESS IF
WE ARE GOING TO BE
STICKING AROUND LONGER,
I'LL TAKE THAT THIRD
MARGARITA.

WHO'S
COUNTING?

YOU
MEAN, *FOURTH*,
RIGHT?

THE CAPITAL
OF THE BLUE.

THE BLUE HAVE DWELLED IN THIS
WORLD FOR THOUSANDS OF
YEARS, AND YET MOST OF THE
PLANET DOES NOT EVEN KNOW
WE EXIST. MANY HAVE DEBATED
WHETHER OR NOT OUR ISOLATED
STATUS HAS ENSURED OUR
SURVIVAL OR SEALED OUR DOOM.

I HAVE TRIED TO AVOID
BECOMING ENTANGLED
IN THE MEXNY OF IT ALL.

AND IN DOING SO, I HAVE
MADE MY OWN MISTAKES.
SOMETIMES I FEEL THAT
I HAVE SPENT MY WHOLE
LIFE ABANDONING THOSE
CLOSEST TO ME.

GALACIA...
MY FATHER...

KILLIAN...
MY LOVER...

KIAN...
MY CHILD...

I CANNOT CHANGE
THE PAST. I CANNOT
UNDO THE DAMAGE I
HAVE CAUSED.

BUT I CAN DO EVERYTHING
IN MY POWER TO KEEP YOU
SAFE, LITTLE ONE.

I'LL NOT ABANDON YOU.



I STILL
FIND IT HARD
TO WALK AMONG
THE PEOPLE.

IS THE POWER OF
BEING A HIGH COUNSELOR
ALREADY GOING TO YOUR
HEAD, SIPHER?

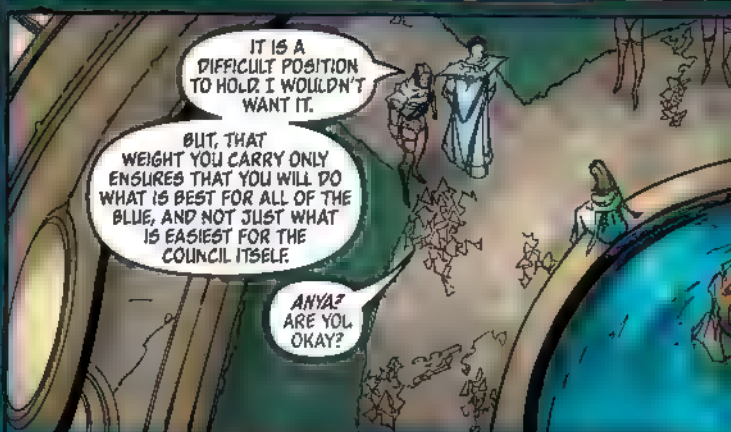
NOT AT ALL. I
JUST CAN'T HELP BUT
FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR
THEM... FOR ALL OF
THEM.

THAT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE.



BECAUSE
YOU ARE.

THANKS,
CANNON. THAT TAKES
THE PRESSURE
RIGHT OFF.



IT IS A
DIFFICULT POSITION
TO HOLD. I WOULDN'T
WANT IT.

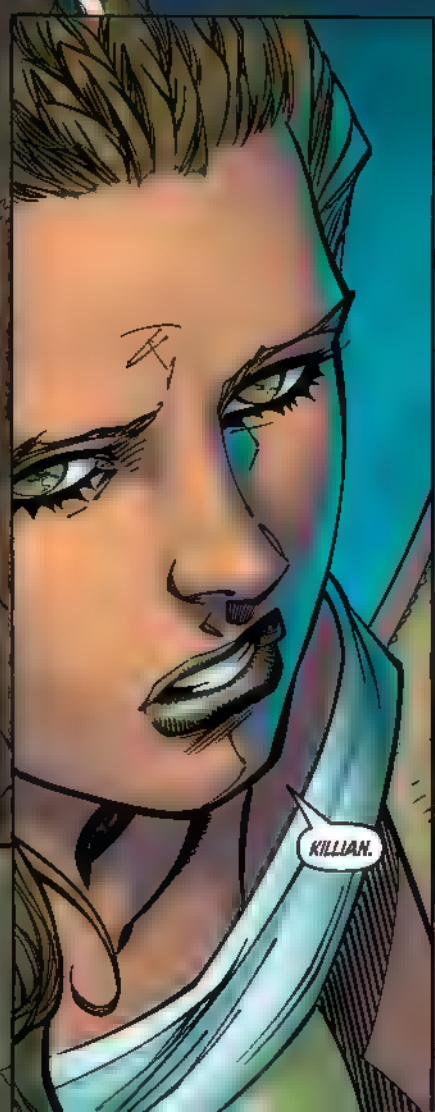
BUT, THAT
WEIGHT YOU CARRY ONLY
ENSURES THAT YOU WILL DO
WHAT IS BEST FOR ALL OF THE
BLUE, AND NOT JUST WHAT
IS EASIEST FOR THE
COUNCIL ITSELF.

ANYA?
ARE YOU
OKAY?



I... I'M FINE, BUT...
THERE IS SOMETHING
IMPORTANT I MUST TELL
YOU, BOTH OF YOU...
HE IS BACK.

WHO?
WHO IS
BACK?



KILLIAN.

WHERE.

SOMEHOW, I
KNEW OUR PATHS WOULD
EVENTUALLY CROSS, KIAN,
AND THAT WE WOULD BE
TOGETHER AGAIN.

AND THOUGH I WAS
NOT AT YOUR SIDE DURING
YOUR FORMATIVE YEARS, I
NEVERTHELESS SEE MUCH
OF MYSELF IN YOU.

I DON'T SEEK
FORGIVENESS FOR
MY ABSENCE—
FOR LEAVING YOU
IN THE CARE OF
OTHERS.

I DID WHAT
WAS NECESSARY
TO SURVIVE IN
THIS WORLD.

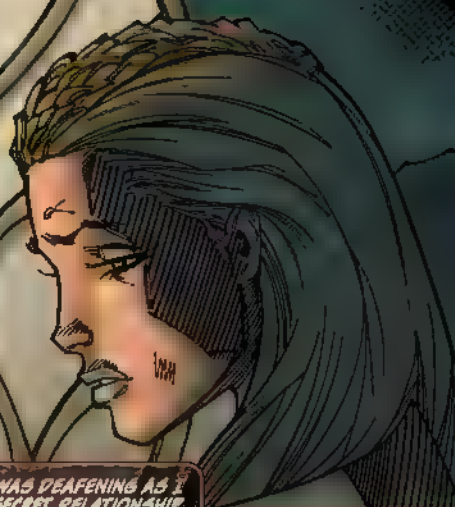
I'M NOT HERE
FOR YOU... FATHER.
I'M HERE BECAUSE OF
WHAT I WANT...

...REVENGE.

I AM PROUD
TO HAVE YOU AT
MY SIDE...

...NOT AS A
CHILD IN NEED OF
PROTECTION OR
COMFORT...





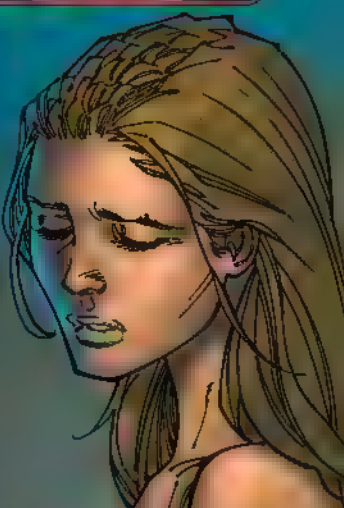
THEIR SILENCE WAS DEAFENING AS I REVEALED MY SECRET RELATIONSHIP WITH KILLIAN AND OUR DAUGHTER, KIANI—WHOM WE ENTRUSTED TO CASQUE FOR PROTECTION DUE TO KILLIAN'S EXILE.



IN BATTLING FOR HIS BLUE SUN, KILLIAN FOUGHT AGAINST THE ONE NAMED ASPEN. IN THE END, SHE ERADICATED HIM, SPLITTING APART HIS VERY BEING INTO A BILLION PROPLETS.



BUT, KILLIAN SURVIVED.

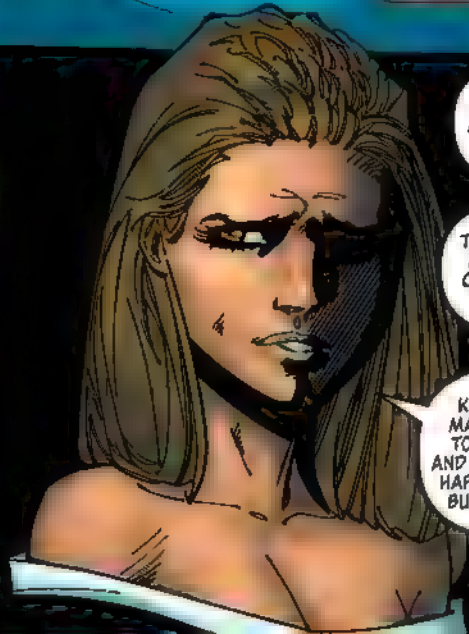


CANNON HAS SEEN HIM SINCE, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT REALIZE IT. KILLIAN PASSED HIMSELF OFF AS ASPEN'S LONG LOST BROTHER, FINN, IN THE HOPES OF ONCE AGAIN MANIPULATING HER INTO FIGHTING FOR HIS CAUSE.



AND NOW, WITH HIS EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH TO RECLAIM HIS TRUE FORM COMPLETE...

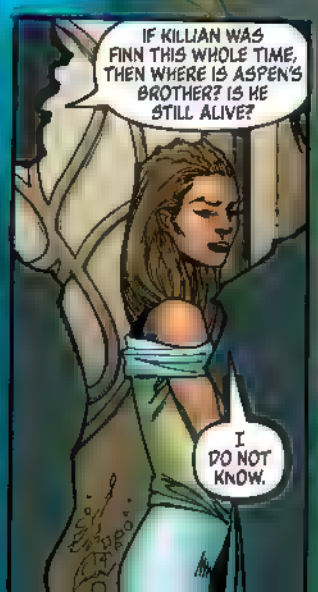
...KILLIAN IS WHOLE AGAIN.



KIANI?? SHE'S KILLIAN'S DAUGHTER??? IS SHE WITH HIM, NOW?

WHY ARE YOU TELLING US ALL OF THIS, ANYAZ? YOU OBVIOUSLY CARE FOR H.M, BUT YOU KNOW THAT WE MUST GO AFTER HIM.

BECAUSE KILLIAN'S MOTIVES MAY BE DISASTROUS TO OUR WAY OF LIFE, AND I CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN... NOT FOR ME BUT FOR THE CHILD I NOW CARRY.



IF KILLIAN WAS FINN THIS WHOLE TIME, THEN WHERE IS ASPEN'S BROTHER? IS HE STILL ALIVE?

I DO NOT KNOW.



PERHAPS WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES.



MY NAME IS *SIPHON*
AND I AM THE *HIGH*
COUNSELOR HERE IN *MURIA*.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY
I'M THE PRESIDENT OF
OUR PEOPLE.

YOU CALL
YOURSELF, *ANDERSON*,
RIGHT?

AS FAR AS
YOU KNOW.

DESPITE THE
TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION
YOU AND YOUR TEAM TRIED TO
CARRY OUT, I HAVE MADE SURE
THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN
EXCELLENT CARE.

SAVE YOUR *CHARITY*.
IT'S A STRATEGY LIKE ANY
OTHER. ACT LIKE A FRIEND AND
TRY TO APPEAL TO MY GOOD
NATURE FOR INFORMATION TO
COORDINATE YOUR
COUNTERATTACK.

YOU'RE OUTTA
LUCK BECAUSE MY
NATURE *AIN'T*
GOOD.

ANDERSON, WE
HAVE NO PLANS FOR
RETALIATION. THE RECENT
TRAGEDY WAS ENOUGH
FOR BOTH SIDES.

AND I MUST
ASSUME THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE TO RETURN TO YOUR
PEOPLE... JUST AS MUCH AS WE
WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANY OF
OUR PEOPLE IN *CAPTIVITY*
RETURNED UNHARMED.

ME WANTING
TO GET HOME, AND
YOU MAKING IT HAPPEN
ARE TWO COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT THINGS.

BESIDES, YOU'RE
CRAZY IF YOU THINK THE
NAVY IS GONNA GIVE UP
LITTLE BOY BLUE FOR A
GRUNT LIKE ME.

SIPHON
DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING ABOUT
A *BOY*.

HERE IN COLORADO.

HAS ADMIRAL
MAYLANDER
BEEN OFFICIALLY
DISCHARGED?

NO. AFTER
HE COMPLETELY
BOTCHED HIS ASSAULT
ON THESE CREATURES, WE
CONSIDERED IT. HE'S ON
EXTENDED LEAVE...
INDEFINITELY.

I SERVED
WITH MAYLANDER FOR
EIGHT YEARS. HE'S A GOOD
MAN WHO WAS IN WAY OVER HIS
HEAD. THE NAVY YANKED HIM OUT
OF RETIREMENT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T
KNOW HOW ELSE TO DEAL WITH THE
SITUATION. SHOULD HAVE GONE
TO THE BOYS AT ROSWELL.
THAT WHERE YOU'RE
FROM?

NOT EXACTLY,
ADMIRAL MCCARTY, BUT
I'M SORT OF A HYBRID. I'VE
BEEN IN WASHINGTON FOR
THE PAST FEW YEARS, BUT I
WAS A NAVY BRAT BACK
IN THE DAY.

IS THAT
RIGHT? THEY DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING ABOUT
YOU BEING ONE
OF US.

ADMIRAL BROWN
PROBABLY KNOWS ME
MORE FOR MY POLITICAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WHAT WAS
YOUR NAME
AGAIN?

CALLOWAY.
CHRIS CALLOWAY.

WE'RE STILL TRYING TO GET UP TO SPEED OURSELVES. APPARENTLY, MAYLANDER HAD DEALINGS WITH THESE... *THESE THINGS*... FOR YEARS BEFORE HE EVEN INFORMED US ABOUT THEM.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID I'D GET A CHANCE TO SEE ONE UP CLOSE.

WHOA!

THUM

YES, SIR.

LITTLE FELLA HAS A *MEAN STRIKE* IN HIM, HUH?

YEAH, BUT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT.

LIEUTENANT, GIVE HIM A LITTLE TASTE OF WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER.

THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE DISRUPTS THE STABILITY OF THEIR BODIES. THEY CAN'T STAY IN FORM.

REMARKABLE.

HIT HIM AGAIN.

BUILT IN 1961 UNDER EISENHOWER'S PRESIDENCY, THIS MEMORIAL WAS CREATED TO HONOR THE 1,177 BRAVE INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FIGHTING AGAINST THE JAPANESE ON THAT TRAGIC DAY OF DECEMBER 7TH, 1941.

AS TO THE SINKING SLOPE OF THE STRUCTURE ITSELF, ARCHITECT ALFRED PREIS STATED "WHEREIN THE STRUCTURE SAGS IN THE CENTER BUT STANDS STRONG AND VIGOROUS AT THE ENDS EXPRESSES INITIAL DEFEAT AND ULTIMATE VICTORY."

THIS SURPRISE ATTACK ON AMERICAN SOIL PROVED TO BE A TURNING POINT IN WORLD HISTORY.

LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WOULD OFFICIALLY DECLARE WAR UPON JAPAN, AND THUS POSITION THE UNITED STATES AT THE VERY CENTER OF WORLD WAR II.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE WHAT THE SCENE MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT DAY FOR THE YOUNG SOLDIERS...

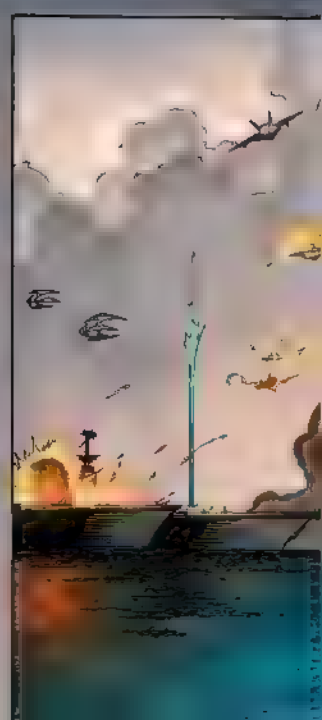
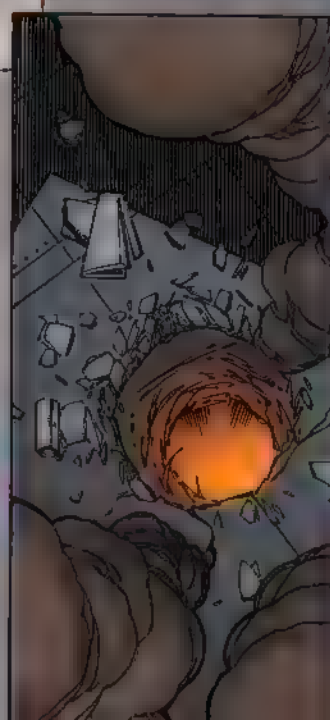
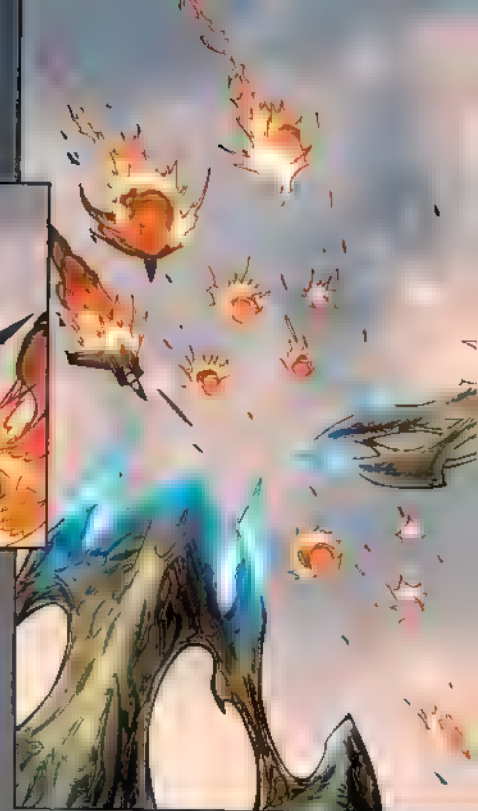
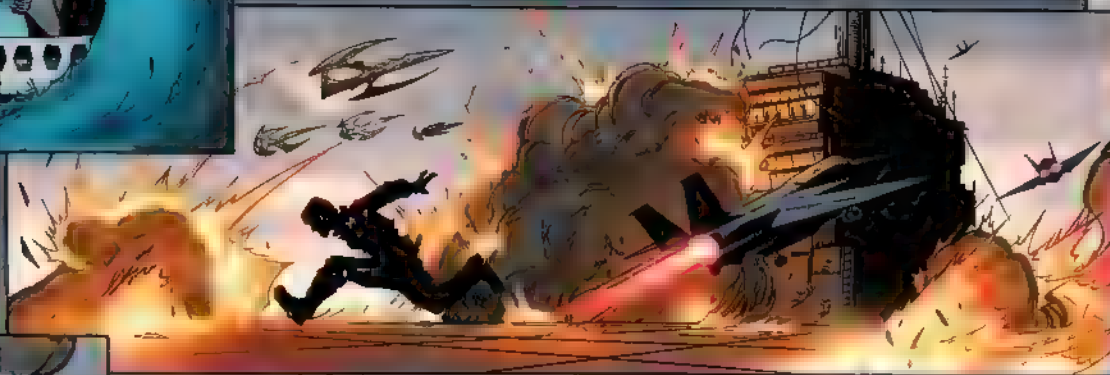
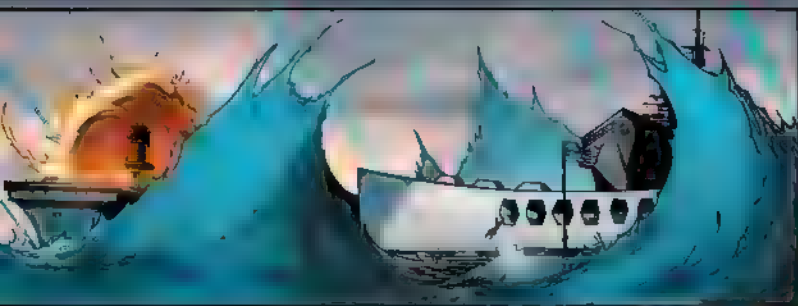
...TO WITNESS FIRSTHAND SUCH A MASSIVE DISPLAY OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION PERPETRATED BY THIS INVASION.

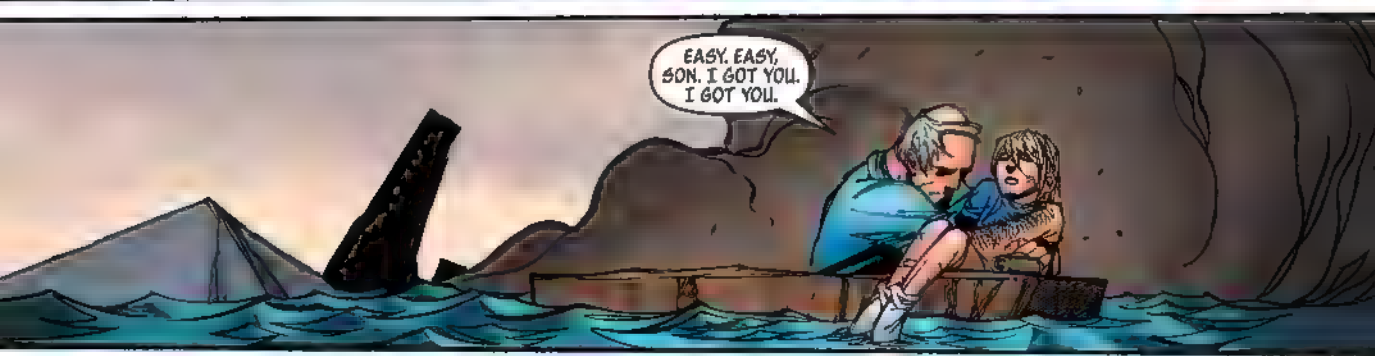
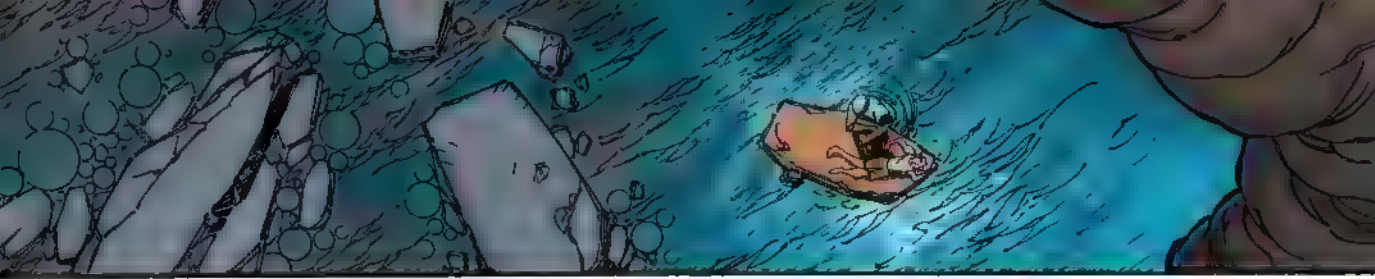


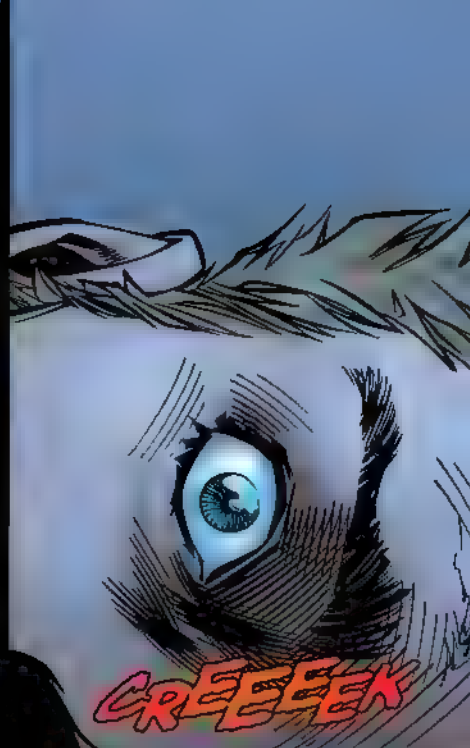
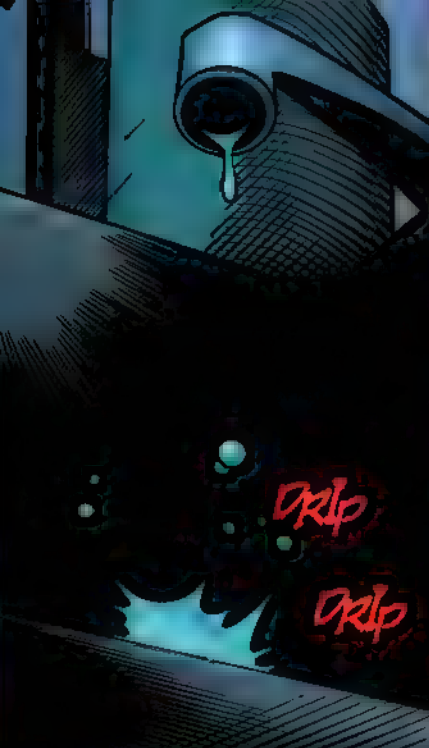


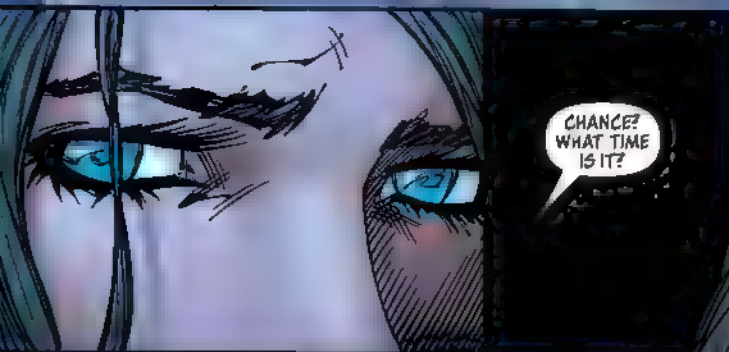
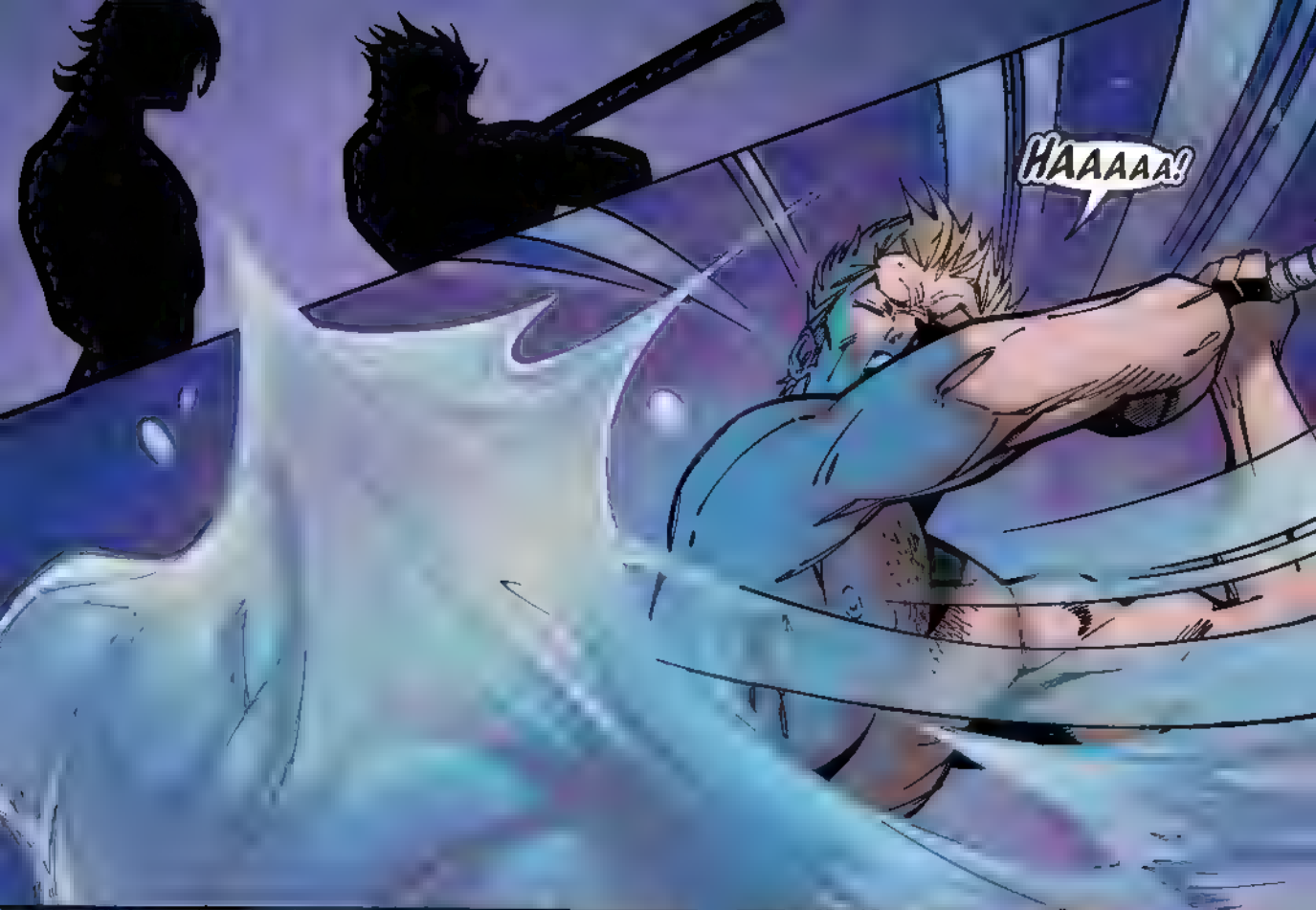
LIKE ASSASSINS,
THEY CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE, EMERGING FROM
BEYOND, SEEKING TO LAY
WASTE TO OUR ENTIRE
WAY OF LIFE.

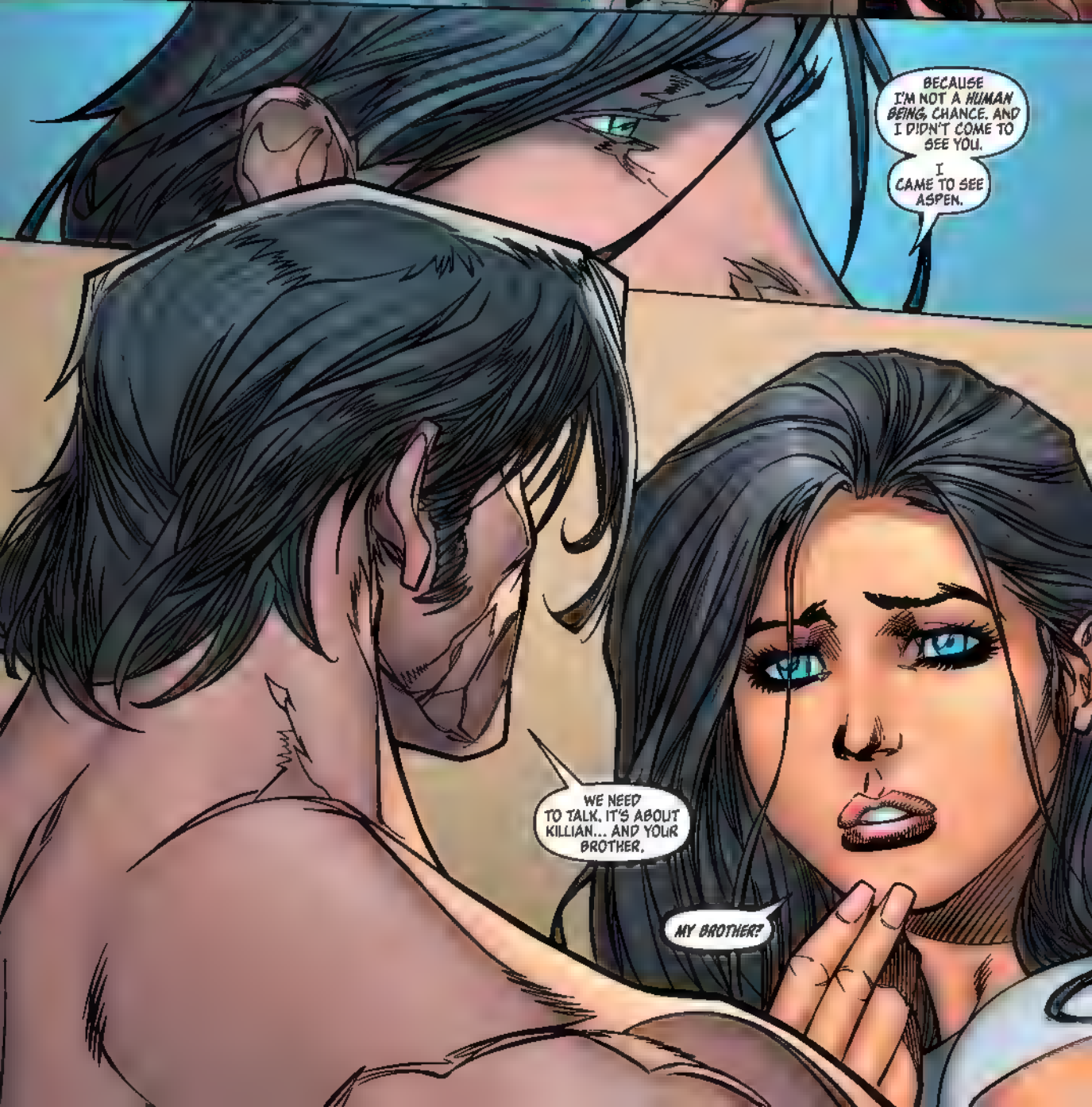
IT WAS
TRULY A DATE
THAT WOULD LIVE
IN INFAMY.







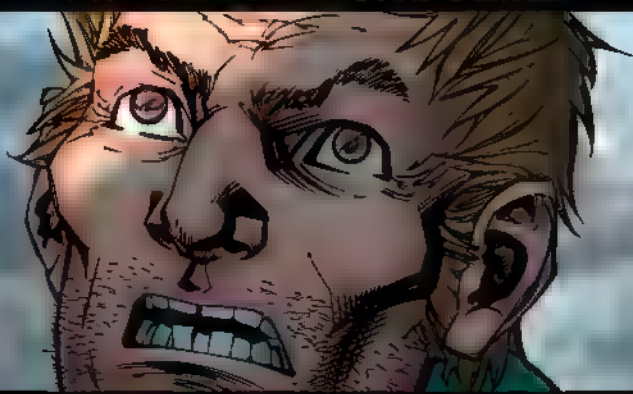




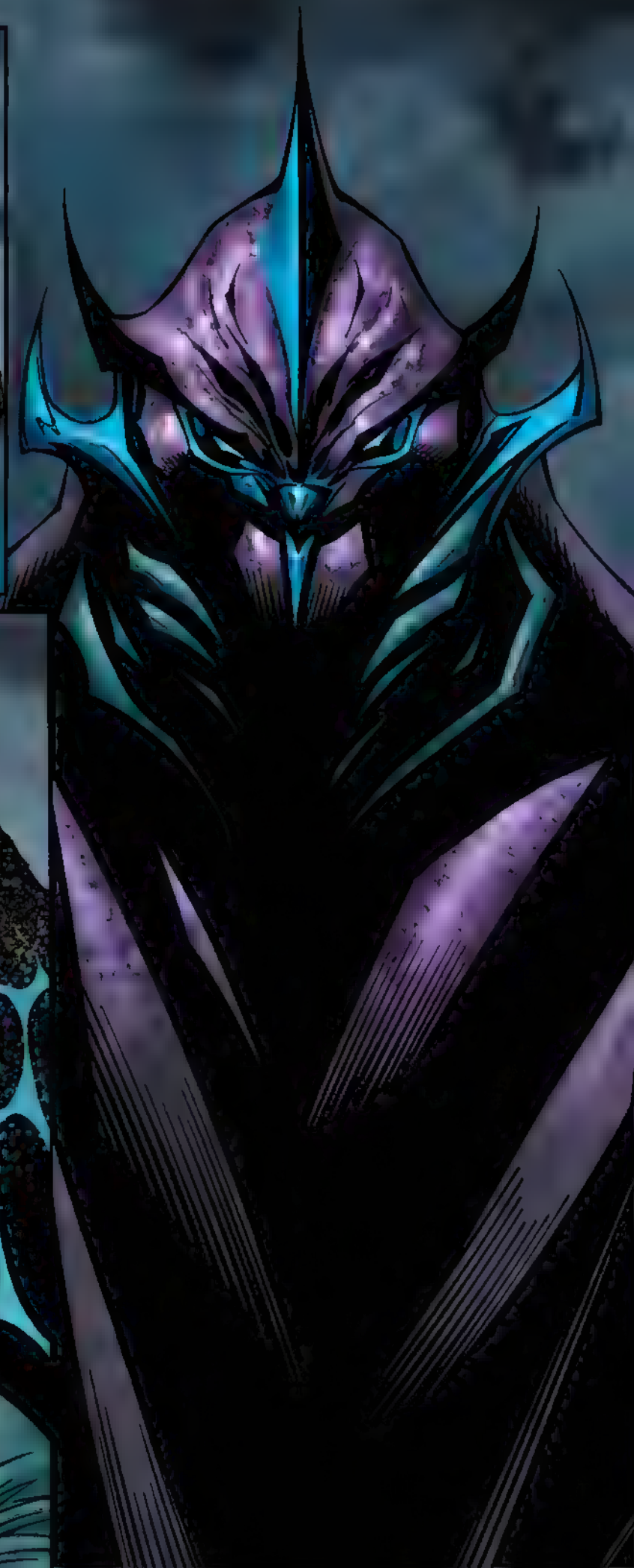
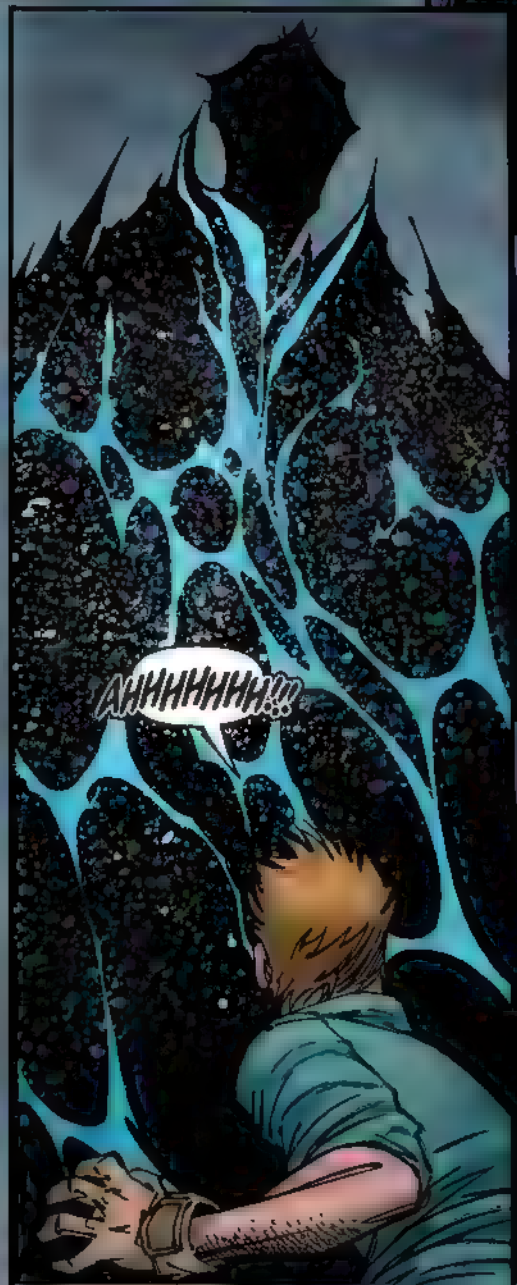
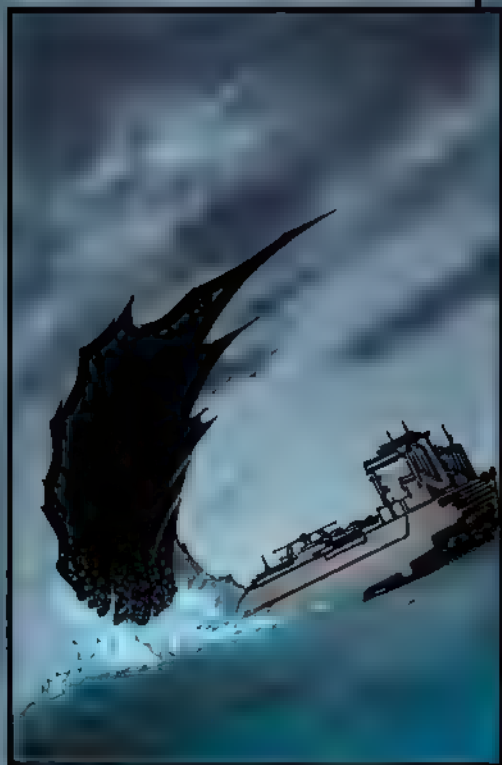
ASTERO OCEAN.



THE WATER!
THE WATER!



STEP FROM
WATER





To Be
Continued...



VOL. 3

#2

OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM





VOL. 3

#2

OF 10
COVER B



MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM™

NUMBER THREE
Issue Two of Ten

FATHOM

J.T. KRUL

story

ALÉ GARZA

pencils

SAL REGLA

inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

letters

WRITER: J.T. KRUL ARTIST: ALÉ GARZA INK: SAL REGLA COLOR: JOHN STARR LETTERS: JOSH REED EDITOR: MICHAEL TURNER

For ASPEN

WRITER: J.T. KRUL ARTIST: ALÉ GARZA INK: SAL REGLA COLOR: JOHN STARR LETTERS: JOSH REED EDITOR: MICHAEL TURNER

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 3 Issue 2

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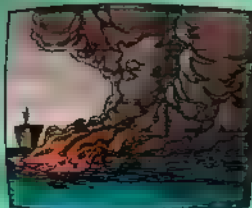
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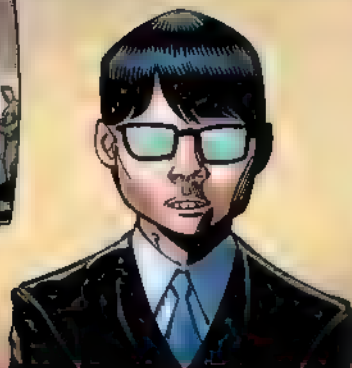
ASSAULT ON PEARL HARBOR

WHO COULD HAVE
PREDICTED AFTER THE
JAPANESE SURPRISE ATTACK
IN 1941 THAT ONE DAY PEARL
HARBOR WOULD ONCE AGAIN
FALL VICTIM TO SUCH AN
ASSAULT? WELL, TODAY
IS THAT DAY...

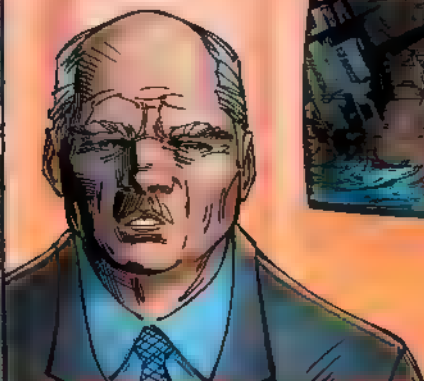
...WE'VE BEEN
ATTACKER

«DESPITE RECENT
CLASHES WITH THE UNITED
STATES, JAPANESE OFFICIALS DENY
ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTACK--
SUGGESTING IT WAS MOST LIKELY THE ACT
OF TERRORISTS. BUT THE SIZE AND SCOPE
OF THE AIR STRIKE DOES SUGGEST
OTHERWISE. AS OF YET THOUGH, NO
NATION OR STATE HAS CLAIMED
RESPONSIBILITY.»

TNJ



RWN

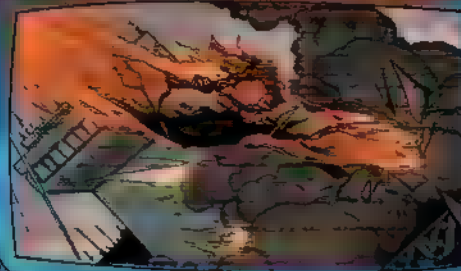


АМЕРИКА ПОД ОС

«PRESIDENT
MEDVEDEV SPOKE WITH THE
U.S. PRESIDENT EARLIER THIS
MORNING TO OFFER HIS CONDOLENCES.
IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS HOWEVER,
MEDVEDEV DID STRESS HOW THE
AMERICANS' AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN
POLICY MAY HAVE BEEN A
MOTIVATING FACTOR OF
THE ATTACK.»

SINCE
RELEASING THE FOOTAGE,
WE HAVE BEEN INUNDATED WITH
CALLS SUGGESTING SOMETHING
EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN NATURE WAS
RESPONSIBLE. SUCH COMMENTS
WOULD BE DISMISSED AS CRAZED
RANTINGS, BUT I FOR ONE MUST
ADMIT THAT THE FOOTAGE
DOES APPEAR
RATHER...

FROM JAPANESE
FROM RUSSIAN



ET vs USA?

DOES NEWS FOOTAGE PROVE EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF PEARL HARBOR?

BCC

...OTHERWORLDLY.

INT.

HE'S A
MADMAN! KILLIAN
MUST PAY FOR HIS
ACTIONS.

WHAT'S
THE POINT? THE
DAMAGE IS ALREADY DONE.
THE HUMANS ARE SURE TO
COME THIS WAY, LOOKING FOR
RETRIBUTION. ONCE AGAIN,
WAR WILL BEFALL OUR
WORLD.

BOTH SITUATIONS
REQUIRE OUR ATTENTION.
I RECOMMEND WE ASSIGN A
STRIKE TEAM TO FIND KILLIAN,
WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE
FORCE REMAINS BEHIND TO
PROTECT THE PEOPLE IN
CASE THE HUMANS
RETURN.

SIPHON,
YOU ARE HIGH
COUNSELOR. DO
YOU AGREE?

I DO, ALDEN,
BUT I ALSO FEAR WE
MUST CONSIDER MORE
DRASTIC MEASURES TO
DIFFUSE THE SITUATION
WITH THE HUMAN
WORLD.

WE MUST
SEPARATE OURSELVES
FROM KILLIAN AND HIS
WARMONGERING.

AND HOW
EXACTLY DO YOU
SUPPOSE WE
DO THAT?

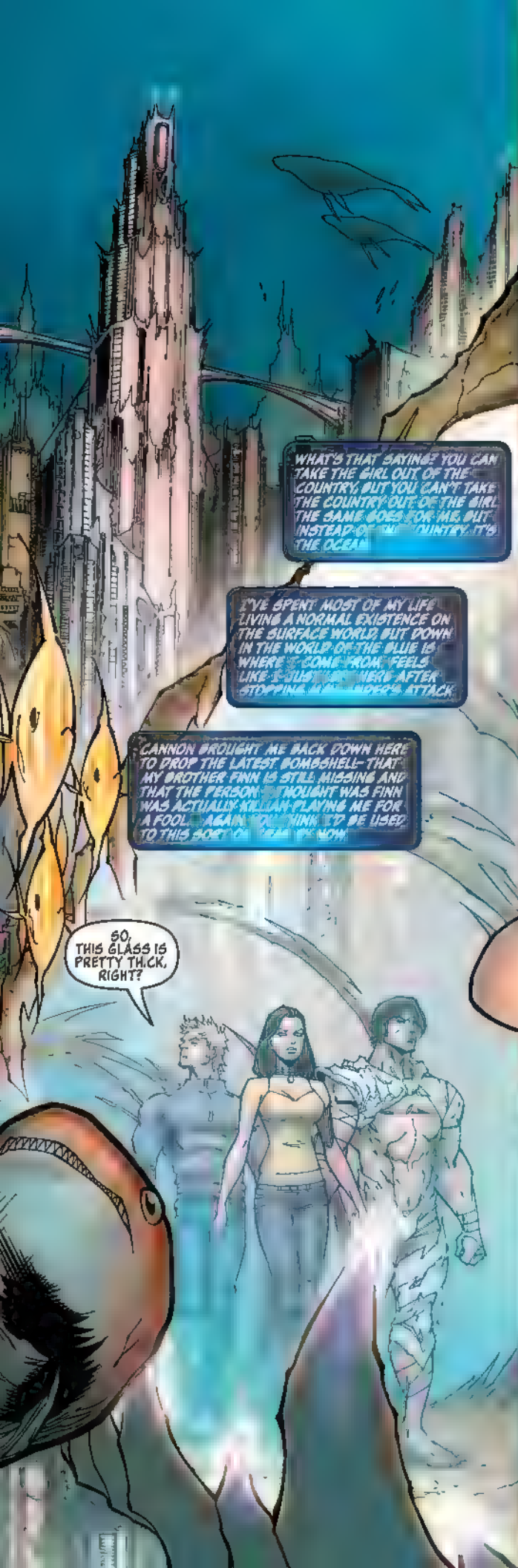
PERHAPS
THE TIME HAS COME
TO REACH OUT TO
THE HUMANS.

SIPHON???
THAT'S
INSANE!

YOU ARE NOT
THE FIRST YOUNG
COUNSELOR TO MAKE
SUCH A SUGGESTION, BUT
THAT KIND OF THINKING
IS EXTREMELY
SHORTSIGHTED.

TO EXPOSE
OURSELVES TO THE REST
OF THE WORLD WOULD BE
DISASTROUS... FOR ALL
OF THE BLUE.

WE
HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING.



WHAT'S THAT SAYING? YOU CAN TAKE THE GIRL OUT OF THE COUNTRY, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE COUNTRY OUT OF THE GIRL. THE SAME GOES FOR ME, BUT INSTEAD OF THE COUNTRY, IT'S THE OCEAN.

I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE LIVING A NORMAL EXISTENCE ON THE SURFACE WORLD, BUT DOWN IN THE WORLD OF THE BLUE IS WHERE I COME FROM. FEELS LIKE I JUST Woke UP HERE AFTER STOPPING MAYLANDER'S ATTACK.

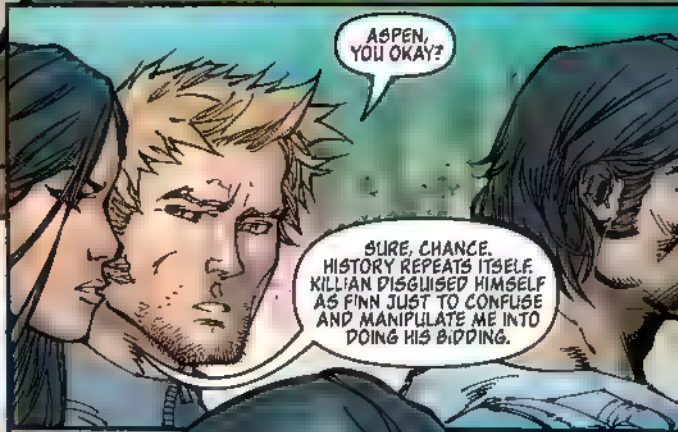
CANNON BROUGHT ME BACK DOWN HERE TO DROP THE LATEST BOMB-SHELL-THAT MY BROTHER FINN IS STILL MISSING AND THAT THE PERSON I THOUGHT WAS FINN WAS ACTUALLY KILLIAN-PLAYING ME FOR A FOOL. AGAIN, YOU THINK I'D BE USED TO THIS SORT OF THING BY NOW.

SO, THIS GLASS IS PRETTY THICK, RIGHT?



RELAX, CHANCE. IT'S COMPLETELY SAFE.

SAYS THE MAN WHO CAN TURN INTO WATER.



ASPEN, YOU OKAY?

SURE, CHANCE. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. KILLIAN DISGUISED HIMSELF AS FINN JUST TO CONFUSE AND MANIPULATE ME INTO DOING HIS BIDDING.



DOING HIS BIDDING. LISTEN TO ME. EVERY TIME I GET DOWN HERE, I START SOUNDING LIKE A CHEESY SOAP OPERA.

BUT I GUESS I'M BETTER OFF THAN MY REAL BROTHER. FINN IS STILL BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY MAYLANDER AND HIS GEEK SQUAD.

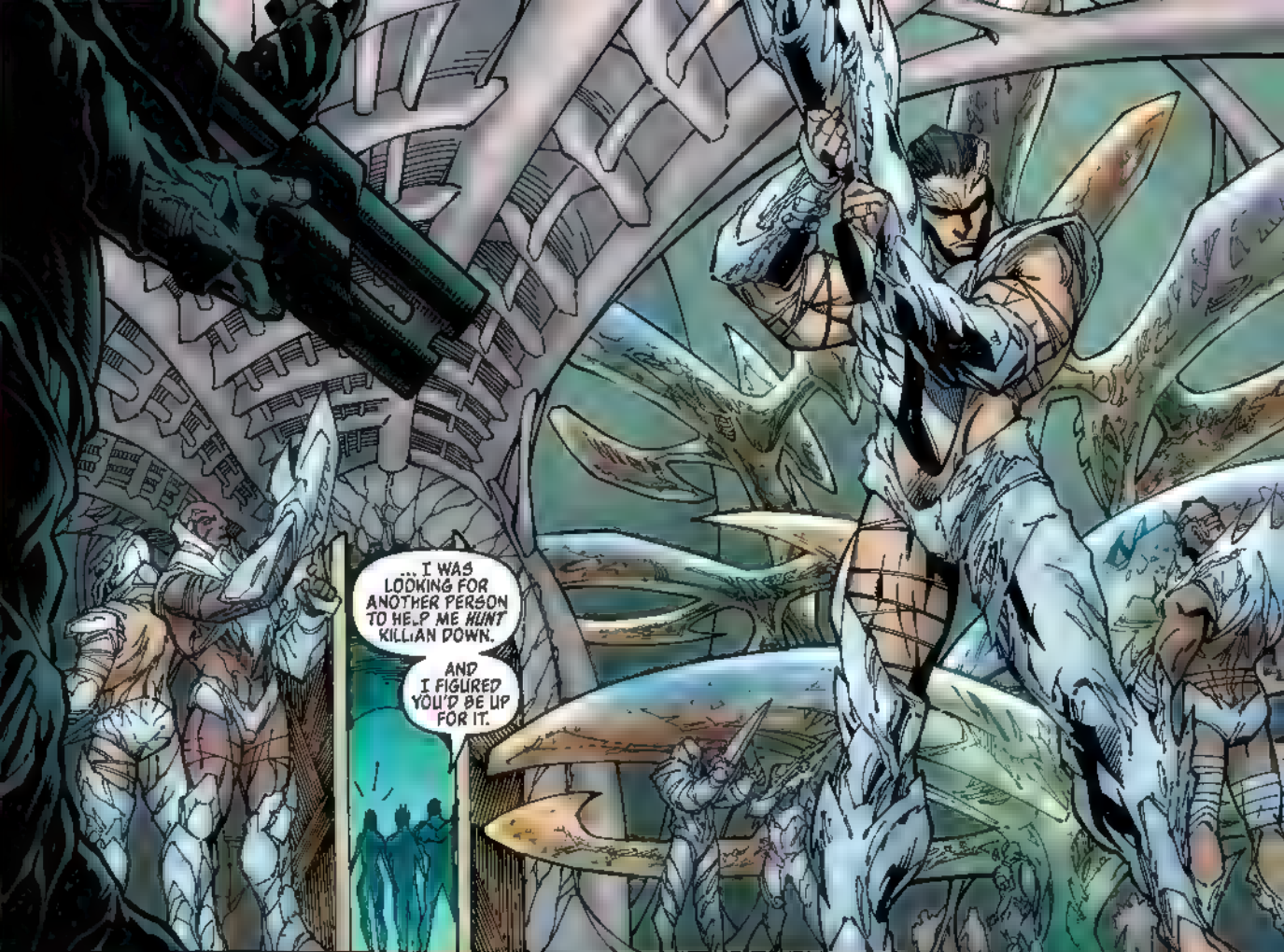


AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT YOUR PRISONER SAID, RIGHT, CANNON?

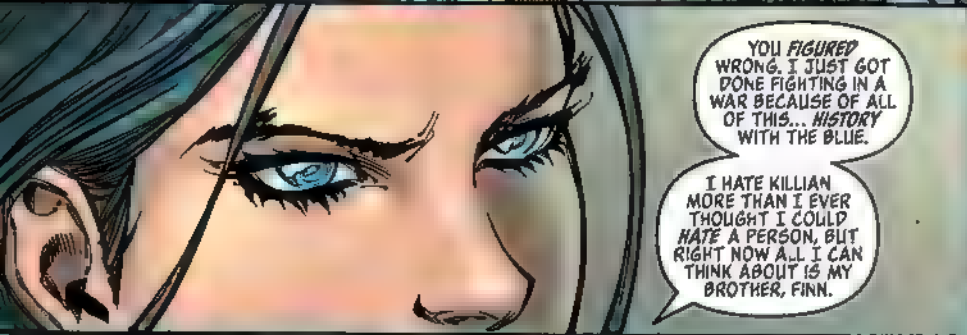
RIGHT.

BUT THERE'S STILL ONE THING I DON'T GET. WHY DID YOU BRING ME DOWN TO MURIA? YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME ALL OF THIS BACK UP IN MEXICO.

BECAUSE I WASN'T JUST LOOKING TO RELAY SOME BAD NEWS...

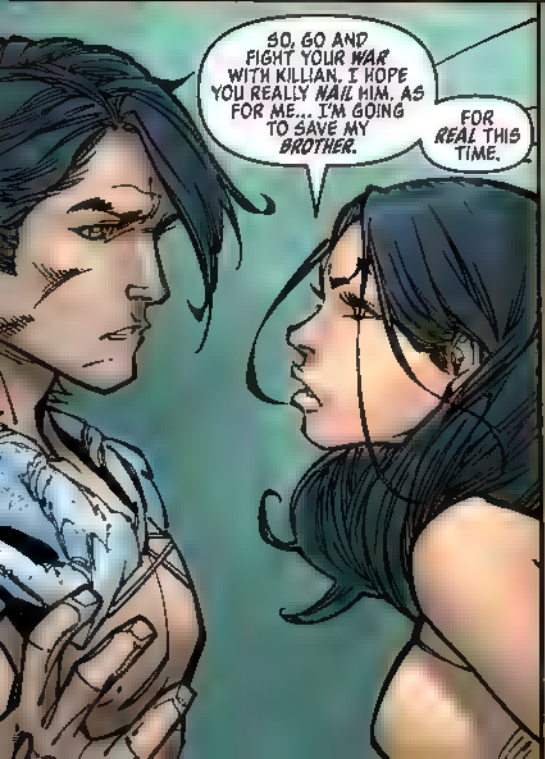


... I WAS
LOOKING FOR
ANOTHER PERSON
TO HELP ME HUNT
KILLIAN DOWN.
AND
I FIGURED
YOU'D BE UP
FOR IT.



YOU FIGURED
WRONG. I JUST GOT
DONE FIGHTING IN A
WAR BECAUSE OF ALL
OF THIS... HISTORY
WITH THE BLUE.

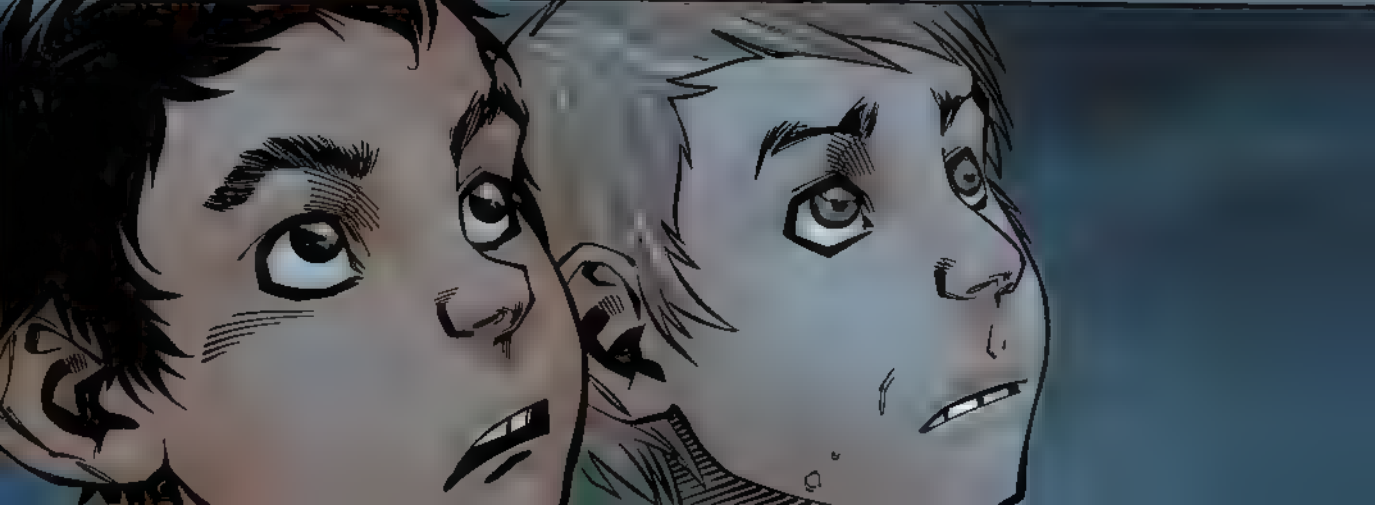
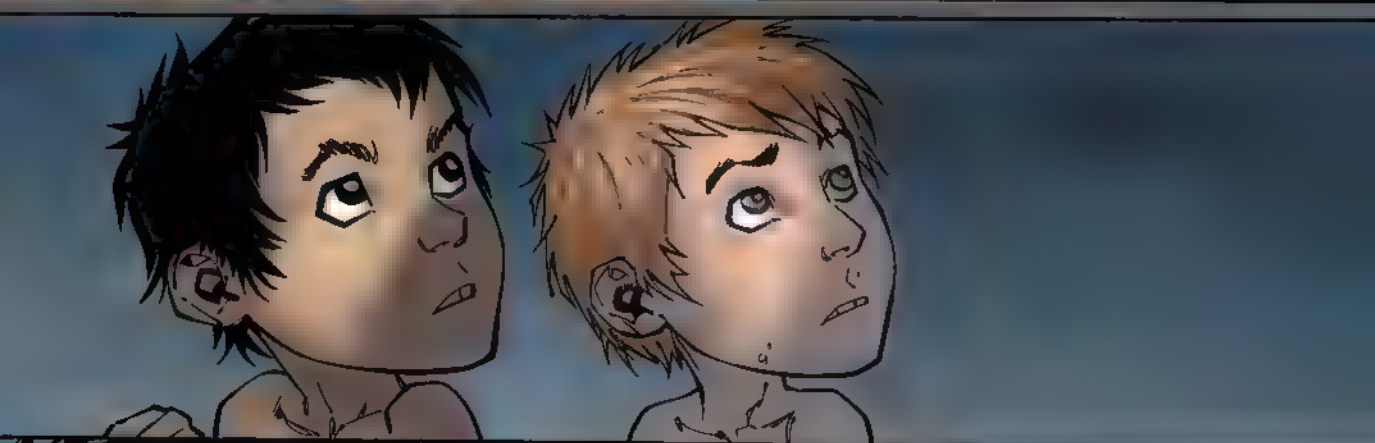
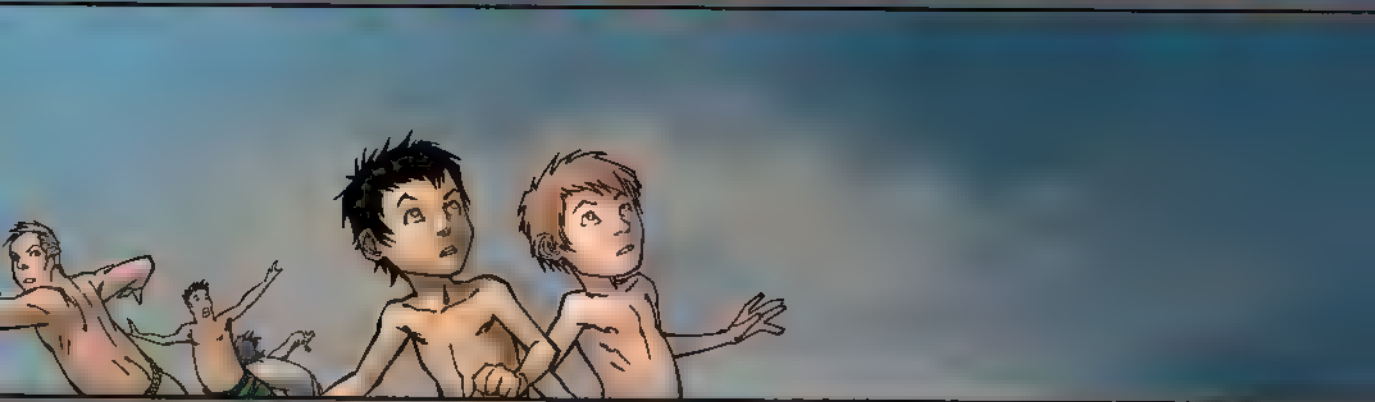
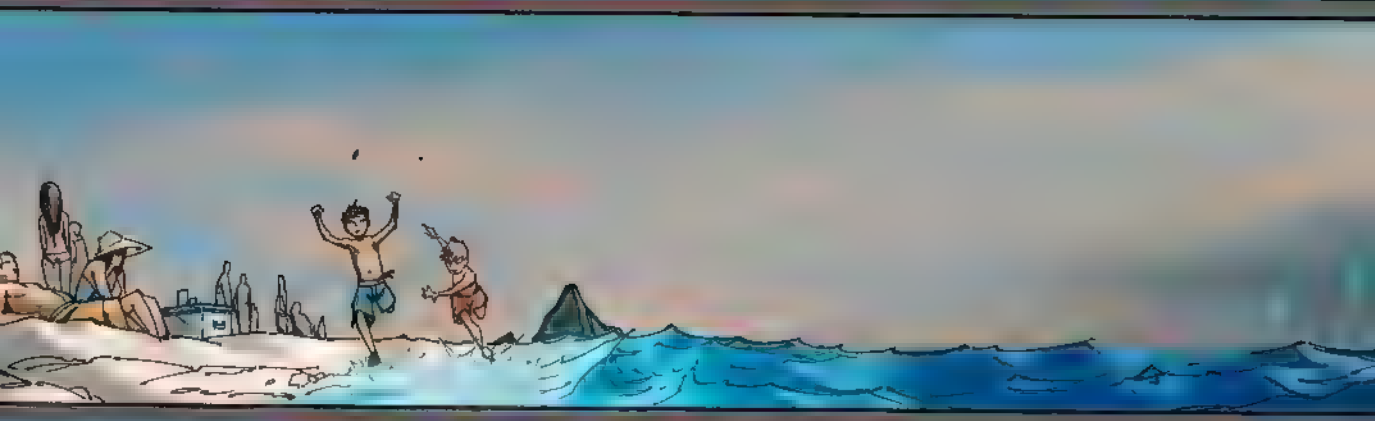
I HATE KILLIAN
MORE THAN I EVER
THOUGHT I COULD
HATE A PERSON, BUT
RIGHT NOW ALL I CAN
THINK ABOUT IS MY
BROTHER, FINN.



SO, GO AND
FIGHT YOUR WAR
WITH KILLIAN. I HOPE
YOU REALLY NAIL HIM. AS
FOR ME... I'M GOING
TO SAVE MY
BROTHER.

FOR
REAL THIS
TIME.







I'M STILL AMAZED HOW EASY IT
CAME FOR ME... KILLING THAT IS. AS
WE RAVAGED THE HUMANS IN
BATTLE... NEVER AS MY DESIRE
TO INFLICT PAIN ON THEM... THE
KIND OF PAIN THEY INFLICTED
UPON ME.

MY WHOLE LIFE PEOPLE
LIKE CANNON AND
CASQUE HAVE BEEN
TRAINING ME... WORKING
TO HELP ME EXPRESS
MY ANGER... WATER.

KILLIAN DOESN'T TREAT ME AS
A FATHER MIGHT, BUT HE HAS
TAUGHT ME TO EMBRACE THE
JUSTICE OF MY FEELINGS.
THE HUMANS... THEY DESERVE
PEACE.

THEY DESERVE
PUNISHMENT.

KIANI, YOU USED
TO BE PART OF THE
COUNCIL'S SECURITY FORCE,
RIGHT? SO THEN, YOU'VE
SEEN ACTION LIKE THIS
BEFORE, HUH?

YES,
GALO. I WAS ON
THE FRONT LINES
WHEN THE HUMANS
ATTACKED
MURIA.

THIS
WAS MY FIRST
BATTLE.

I'VE NEVER
BEEN MUCH OF
A FIGHTER.

BUT AFTER THE
HUMANS DESTROYED
SABA, I JUST COULDN'T
GO BACK AND REBUILD,
PRETENDING THAT IT
NEVER HAPPENED.

I THOUGHT
THE COUNCIL WOULD
STRENGTHEN THE ARMY
TO MOUNT A RESPONSE,
BUT THEY NEVER
DID.

THAT'S WHEN
I HEARD ABOUT
KILLIAN'S MOVEMENT,
AND I KNEW I HAD
TO BE A PART
OF IT.

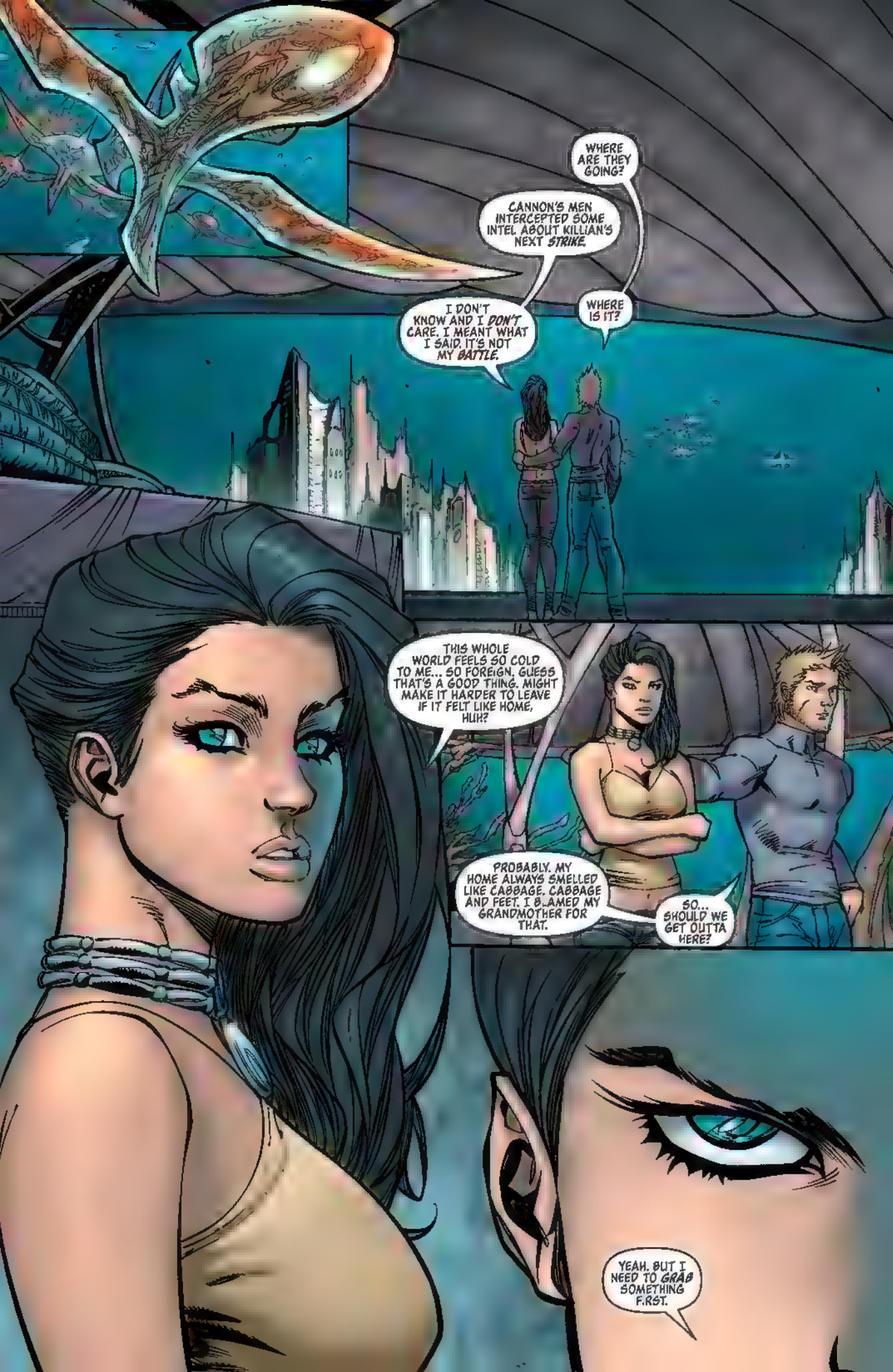
HE'S YOUR
FATHER THEN?
KILLIAN?

YES.

HE
DOESN'T TALK
MUCH, DOES
HE?

NO...

... ESPECIALLY
WHEN HE'S PLANNING
ANOTHER ATTACK.



WHERE
ARE THEY
GOING?

CANNON'S MEN
INTERCEPTED SOME
INTEL ABOUT KILLIAN'S
NEXT STRIKE

WHERE
IS IT?

I DON'T
KNOW AND I *DON'T*
CARE. I MEANT WHAT
I SAID. IT'S NOT
MY BATTLE.

THIS WHOLE
WORLD FEELS SO COLD
TO ME... SO FOREIGN. GUESS
THAT'S A GOOD THING. MIGHT
MAKE IT HARDER TO LEAVE
IF IT FELT LIKE HOME,
HUH?

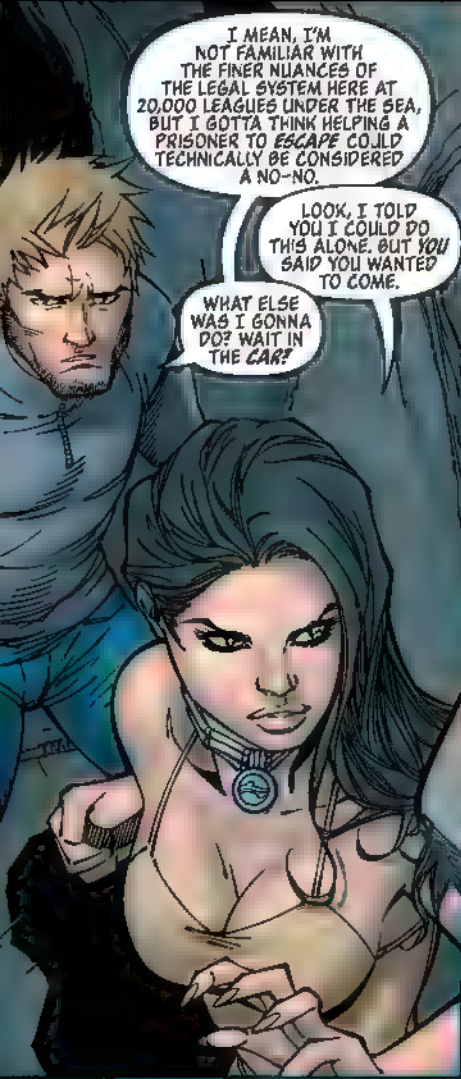
PROBABLY. MY
HOME ALWAYS SMELLED
LIKE CABBAGE, CABBAGE
AND FEET. I BLAMED MY
GRANDMOTHER FOR
THAT.

SO...
SHOULD WE
GET OUTTA
HERE?

YEAH. BUT I
NEED TO GRAB
SOMETHING
FIRST.



THIS IS PRETTY STUPID



I MEAN, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE FINER NUANCES OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM HERE AT 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, BUT I GOTTA THINK HELPING A PRISONER TO *ESCAPE* COULD TECHNICALLY BE CONSIDERED A NO-NO.

LOOK, I TOLD YOU I COULD DO THIS ALONE. BUT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO COME.

WHAT ELSE WAS I GONNA DO? WAIT IN THE CAR?



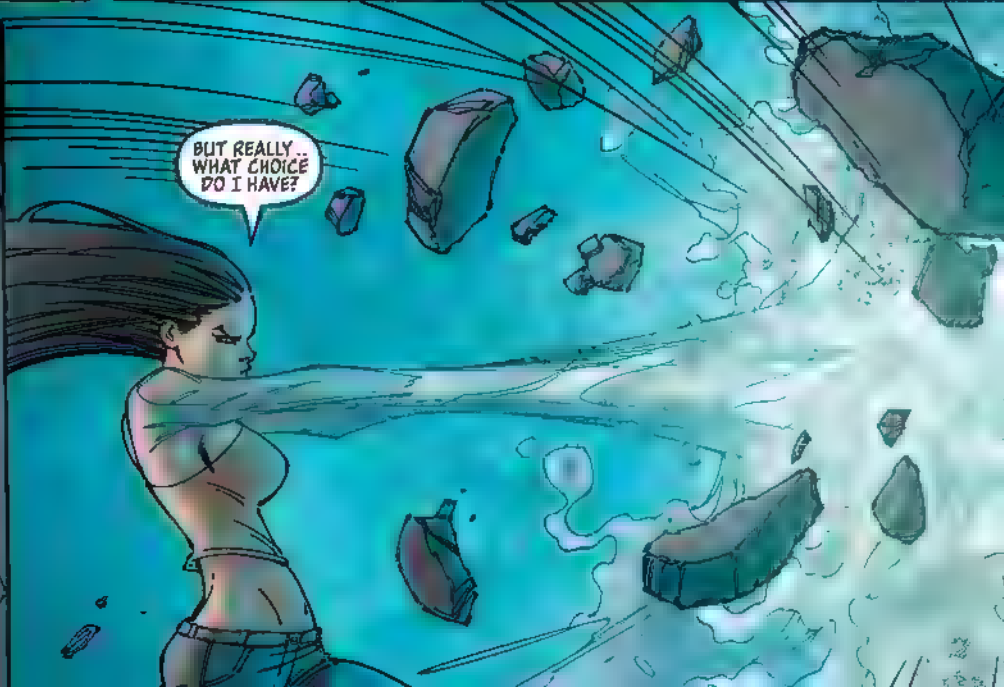
IF THIS PRISONER IS TELLING THE TRUTH, HE MIGHT BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN HELP ME FIND *FINN*. I NEED HIM, CHANCE.



I'VE MET THESE *TIGERSHARKS* BEFORE. THEY'RE A NASTY BUNCH. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

MMH THIS IS IT.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING.



BUT REALLY... WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?



Аииии!



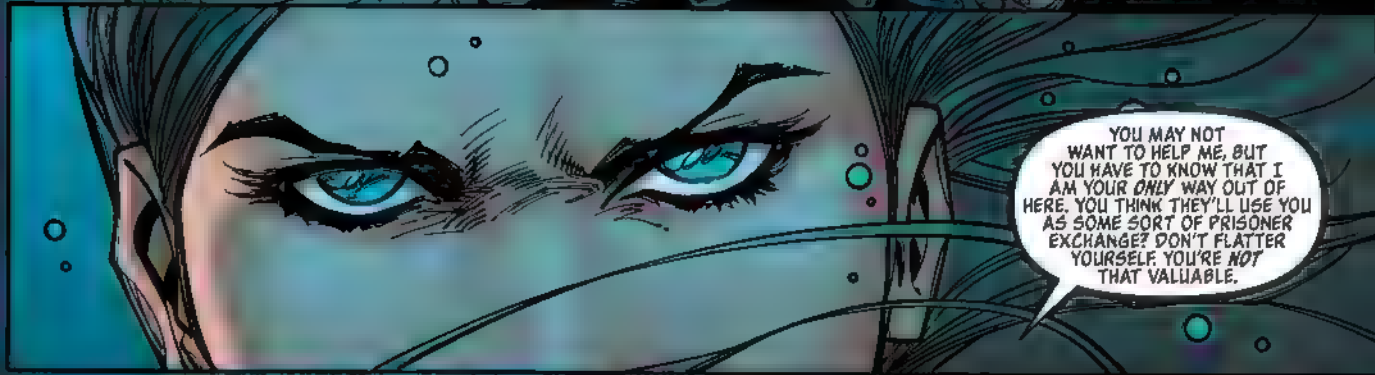
EASY, TIGER.

I GET IT. S.E.A.L.S ARE TOUGH. I'VE SEEN THE ADS.

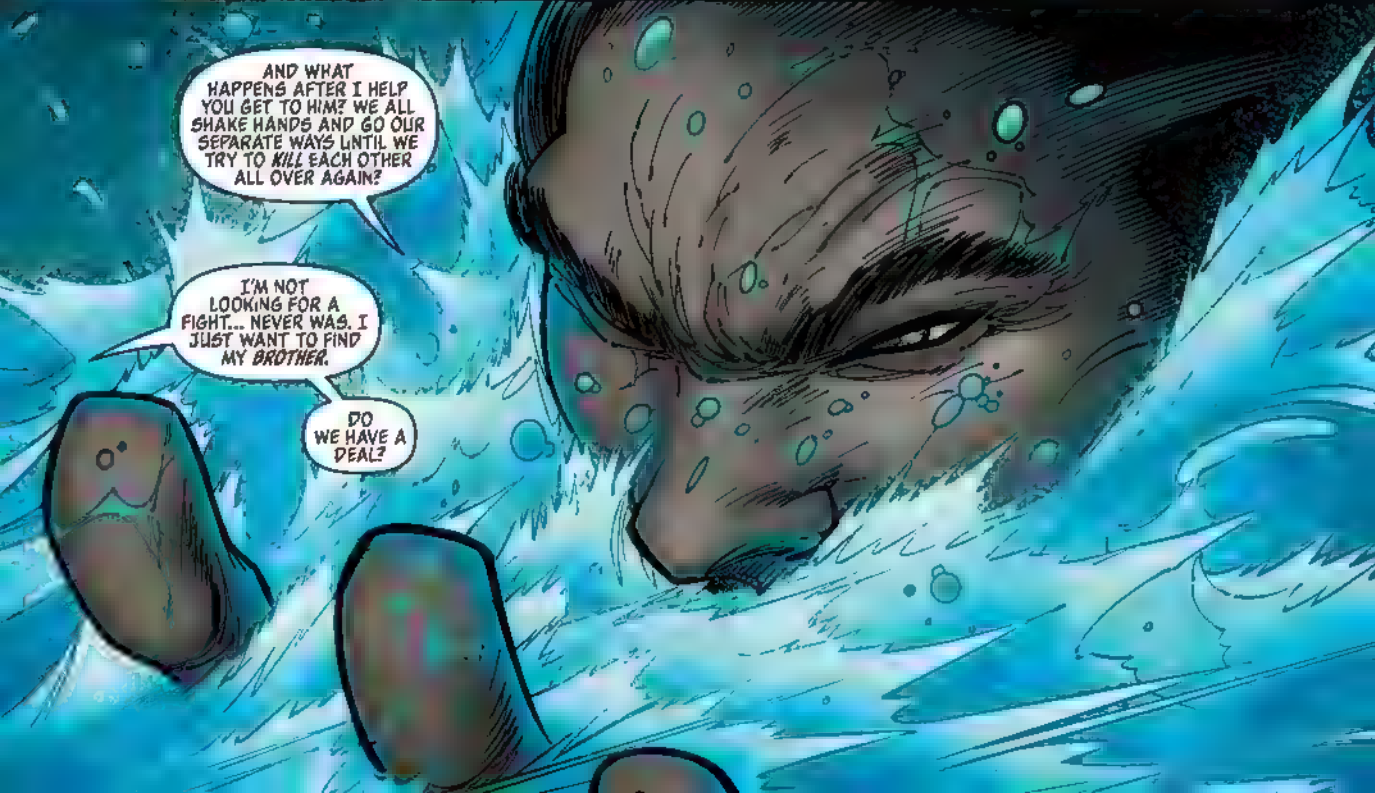
WHEN YOU PUT ME DOWN, YOU BETTER PUT ME DOWN FOR GOOD, LADY, 'CAUSE OTHERWISE YOU'RE DEAD.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME SO LISTEN. THEY TELL ME YOU KNOW WHERE ONE OF THESE PEOPLE IS BEING HELD. ONE OF THE BLUE. I NEED YOU TO HELP ME FIND HIM.

I AMN'T TELLING YOU JACK.



YOU MAY NOT WANT TO HELP ME, BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT I AM YOUR ONLY WAY OUT OF HERE. YOU THINK THEY'LL USE YOU AS SOME SORT OF PRISONER EXCHANGE? DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. YOU'RE NOT THAT VALUABLE.



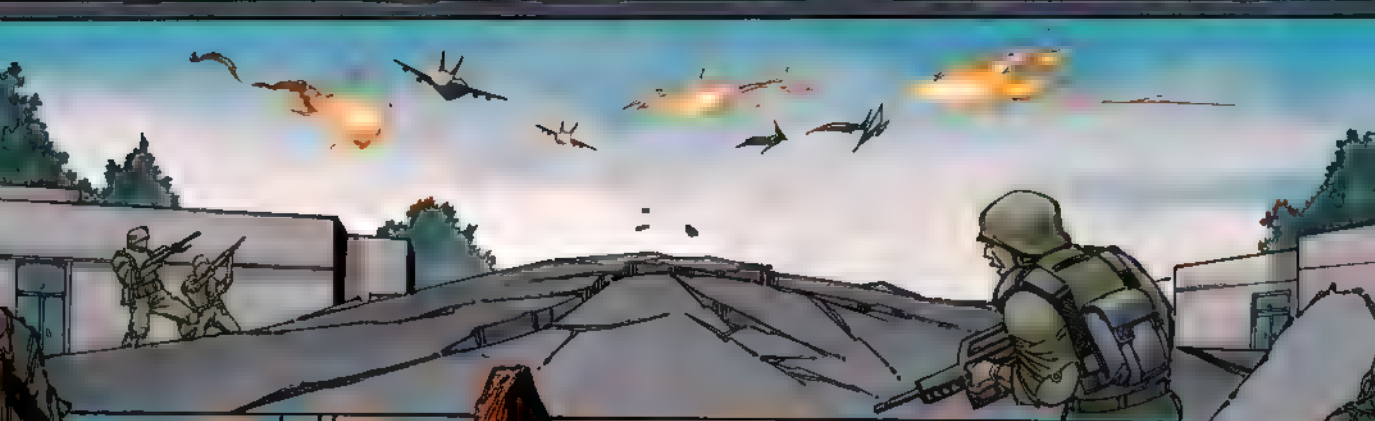
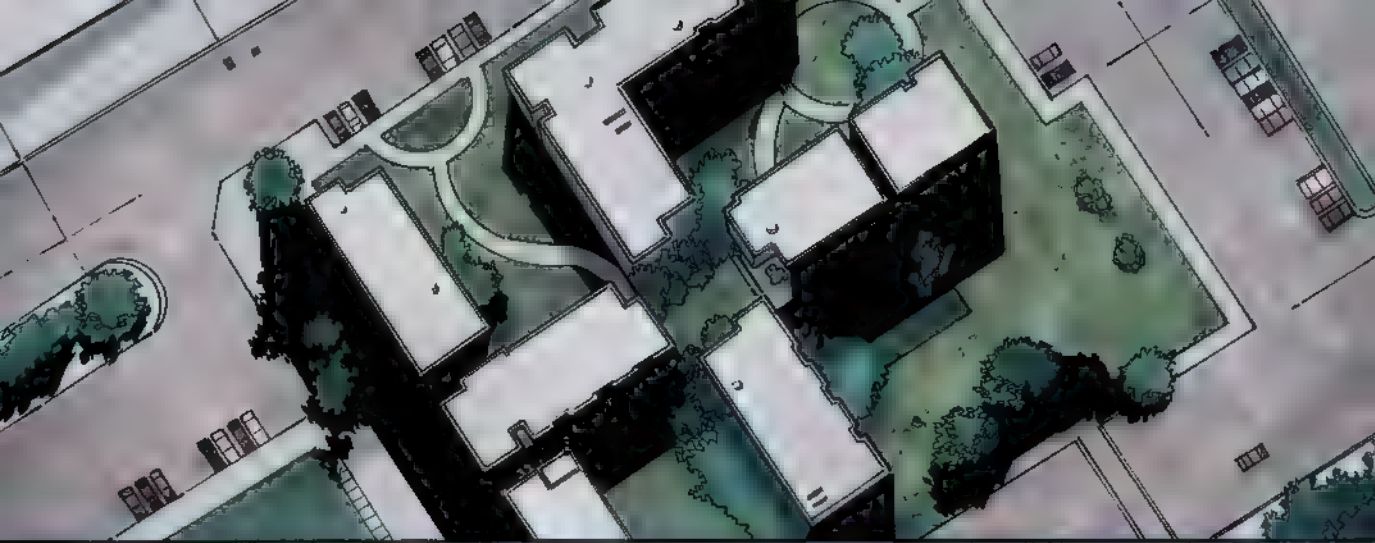
AND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HELP YOU GET TO HIM? WE ALL SHAKE HANDS AND GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS UNTIL WE TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER ALL OVER AGAIN?

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT... NEVER WAS. I JUST WANT TO FIND MY BROTHER.

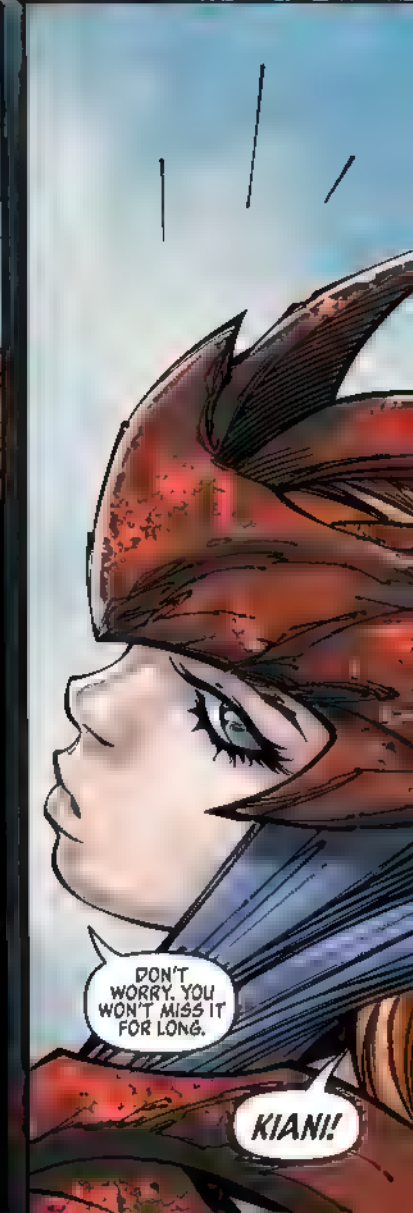
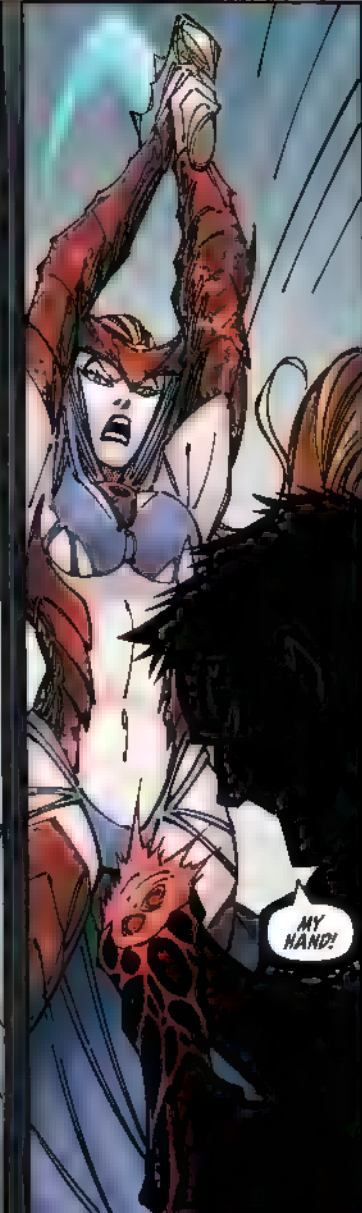
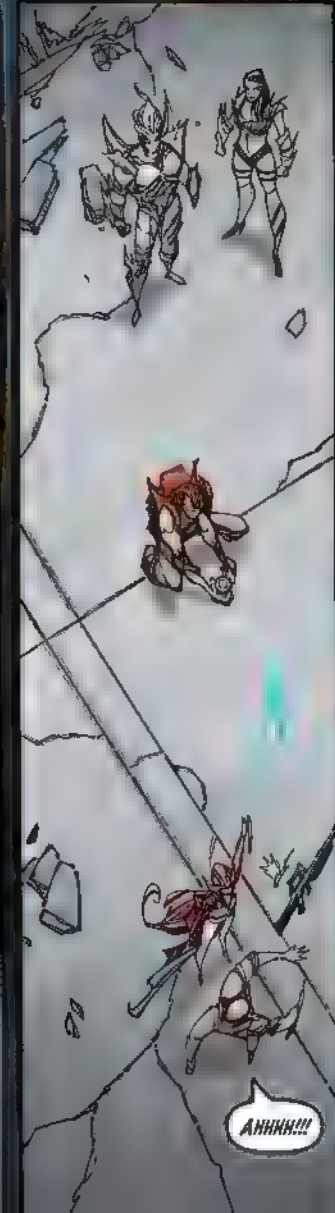
DO WE HAVE A DEAL?













IF YOU WANT
A WAR WITH THE
HUMANS, YOU'LL HAVE
TO GO THROUGH
ME FIRST!

CANNON???



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY DON'T THEY RUN AWAY? IT SEEMS AS IF THEY ARE ACTUALLY GOING TOWARD THE SPHERE... TOWARD CERTAIN DOOM.

DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY WANT TO DIE, RANGER?

IT IS A SIGN OF THEIR ARROGANCE, CASQUE. THE HUMANS BELIEVE THEY RULE OVER THIS PLANET.

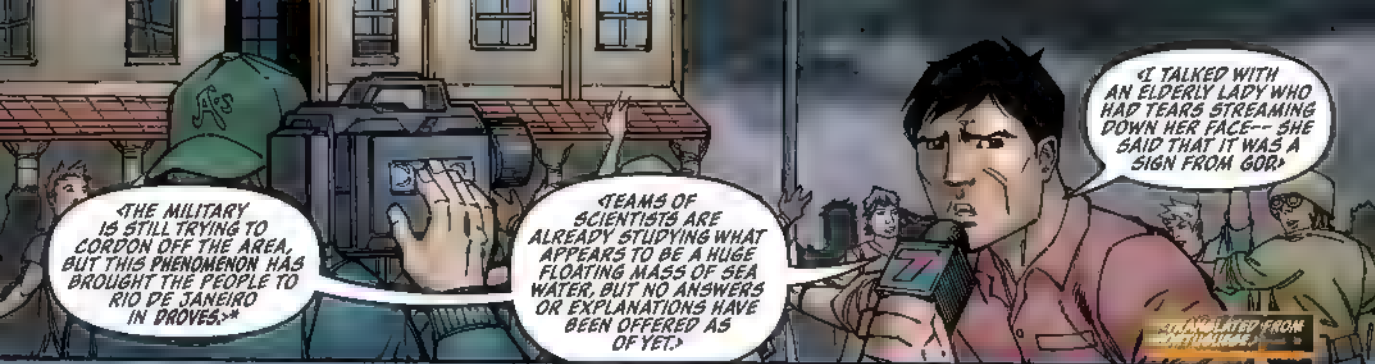
THEY'VE SPENT THEIR ENTIRE EXISTENCE PUSHING AND PULLING AT THE VERY LIFE FORCE OF NATURE, NEVER CONSIDERING WHERE THEY TRULY STAND IN TERMS OF POWER.



SO, THE HUMANS ARE TO LEARN HUMILITY FROM OUR DNSLAUGHT. IS THAT OUR GOAL, RANGER? TO SAVE THEM FROM THEMSELVES?



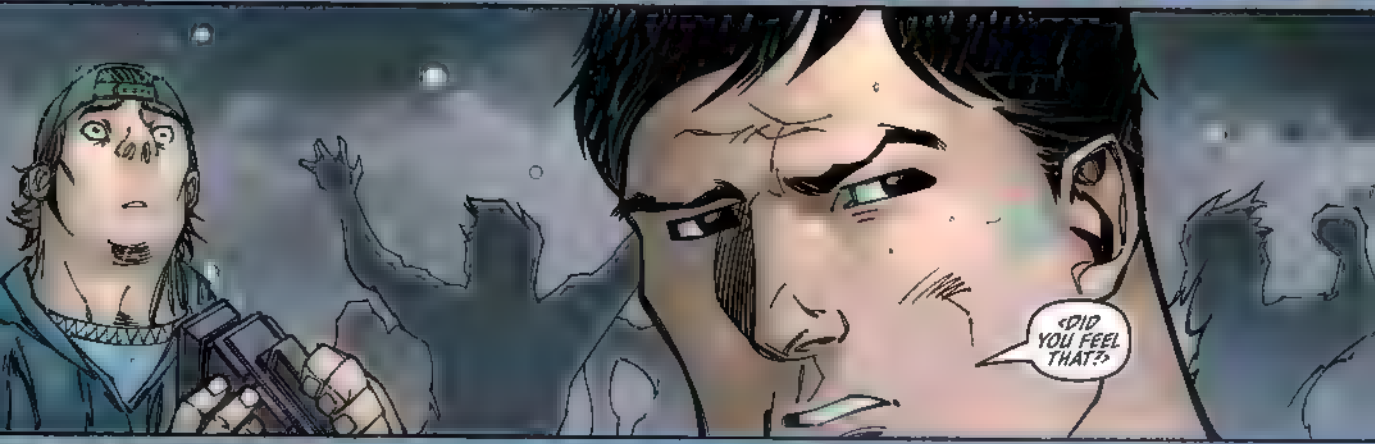
NO, CASQUE. IT IS TOO LATE FOR THEM... FOR ALL OF THEM.



«THE MILITARY IS STILL TRYING TO CORDON OFF THE AREA, BUT THIS PHENOMENON HAS BROUGHT THE PEOPLE TO RIO DE JANEIRO IN PROVES.»

«TEAMS OF SCIENTISTS ARE ALREADY STUDYING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A HUGE FLOATING MASS OF SEA WATER, BUT NO ANSWERS OR EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED AS OF YET.»

«I TALKED WITH AN ELDERLY LADY WHO HAD TEARS STREAMING DOWN HER FACE-- SHE SAID THAT IT WAS A SIGN FROM GOD.»



«DID YOU FEEL THAT?»



«LOOKS LIKE RAIN, BUT IT'S COMING FROM THE MASS OF WATER AND NOT THE CLOUDS.»

THEY HAVE IGNORED OUR WARNING TO CHANGE THEIR SELF-DESTRUCTIVE WAYS.



NOW WE SHALL
MARK THEIR
LORDS FOR ANNOY

TO BE
CONTINUED...



VOL. 3

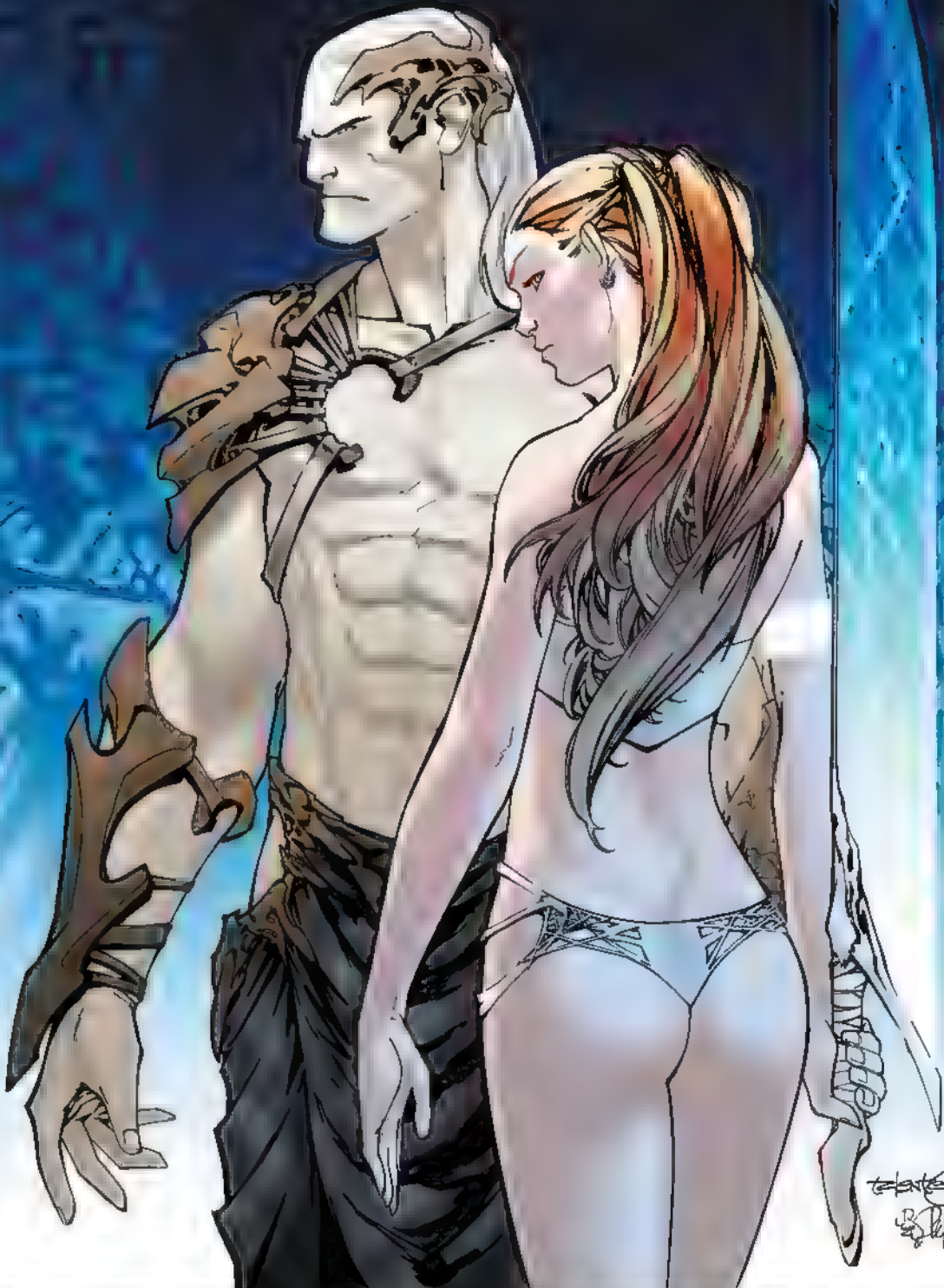
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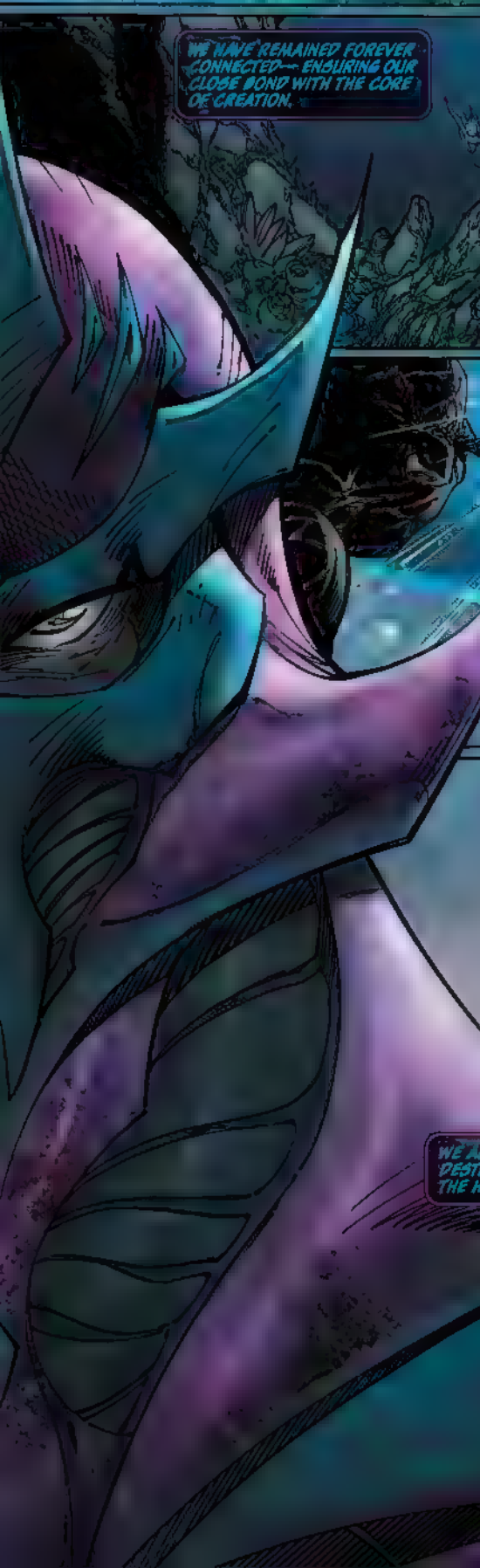
Letters

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SINCE THE FIRST SPARK OF
LIFE IN THIS UNIVERSE, THE
BLACK HAVE EXISTED.



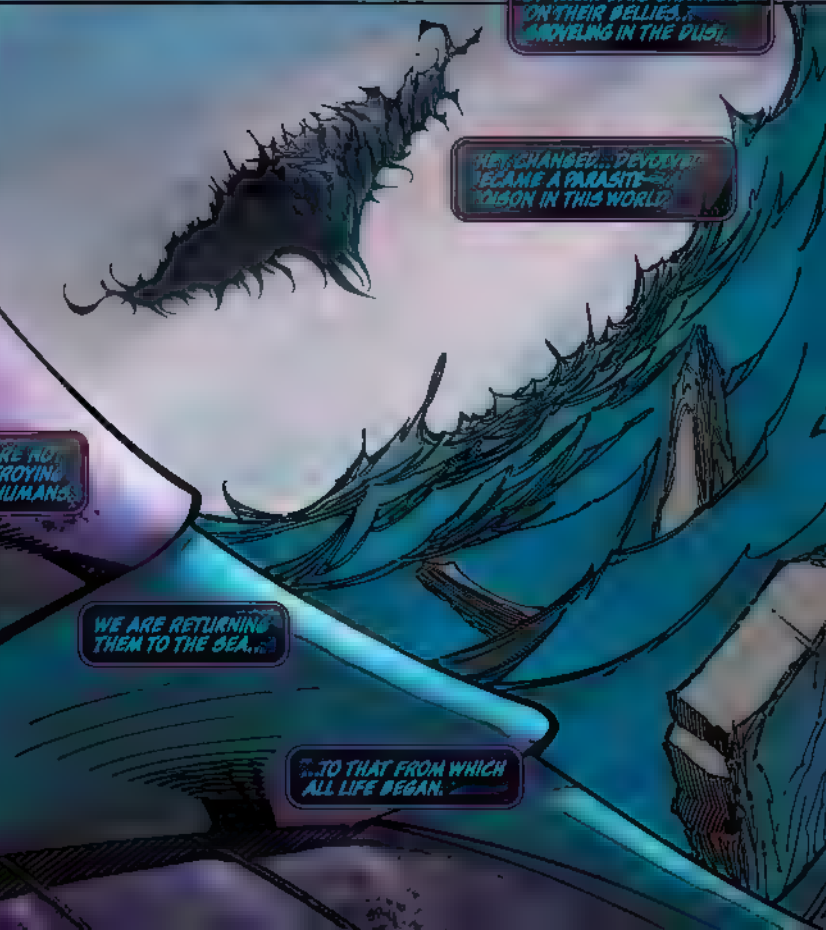
WE HAVE REMAINED FOREVER
CONNECTED—ENSURING OUR
CLOSE BOND WITH THE CORE
OF CREATION.



OTHERS TURNED AWAY
FROM THE POWER OF
THE WATER, LEAVING
THE SEAS FOR THE
DESOLATE LAND ABOVE.



THEY CHOSE TO SPEND ALL
OF THEIR DAYS CRAWLING
ON THEIR BELLIES,
MOVING IN THE DUST.



THEY CHANGED... DEVOLVED
BECAME A PARASITE
ONION IN THIS WORLD.

WE ARE NOT
DESTROYING
THE HUMANS.

WE ARE RETURNING
THEM TO THE SEA...

...TO THAT FROM WHICH
ALL LIFE BEGAN.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

THIS IS THEIR
HOMECOMING



A comic book panel set underwater. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow halter top and grey pants, is the central figure. She has a determined expression and her arms are outstretched. Around her are several men in various states of distress or unconsciousness. In the top left, a large close-up of a man's face with his eyes closed. In the top right, a man is shown from the back, floating. In the bottom left, another close-up of a man's face, looking up. The background is filled with blue water and some coral-like structures.

UH, I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE BETTER IF I
CLOSED MY EYES, BUT I GET
EVEN MORE NAUSEOUS WHEN
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S
AROUND ME.

AND
YOU'RE A
PILOT?

SCREW YOU. THE
SKY IS ALL OXYGEN. MAN
WASN'T MEANT TO BE
DOWN HERE LIKE THIS.

SPEAKING OF
OXYGEN, THERE IS A
LIMITED SUPPLY IN HERE,
SO THE LESS CHATTER,
THE BETTER.

MY NAME IS ASPEN
MATTHEWS. WHO I
AM DEPENDS ON
WHO YOU ASK.

SOME WOULD SAY I AM AN ACCOMPLISHED
MARINE BIOLOGIST WHO FELL OFF THE RADAR
AFTER SURVIVING THE DESTRUCTION OF AN
UNDERWATER RESEARCH CENTER CALLED THE
DEEP MARINE DISCOVERY.

BUT ANYONE RESIDING BELOW SEA
LEVEL KNOWS ME AS THE SPAWN
OF A UNION BETWEEN THE BLUE AND
THE BLACK. THAT'S RIGHT... SPAWN.
MY MOTHER WAS A MEMBER OF
THE BLUE, AND MY FATHER IS
RANGER, THE LEADER OF THE BLACK.

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF I WAS BORN OR
HATCHED. I NEVER GOT
AROUND TO LEARNING
ABOUT THE REPRODUCTIVE
PROCESS AMONG THE BLUE.

CRAZY STUFF FOR SURE. AND
IT BRINGS SOME HELLACIOUS
NIGHTMARES. BUT, I DO HAVE
SOME AMAZING POWERS.

SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF MEXICO.

THE CUTE ONE, A.K.A. THE ONE NOT IN SHACKLES, IS CHANCE. GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE'S MY BOYFRIEND. PROBABLY THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WORLD I TRUST, BESIDES CAPTAIN MATTHEWS - THE MAN WHO CALLED ME AND MY LIFE.

MR. MEANJEANS HERE IS ANDERSON. HE WAS PART OF A SECRET NAVAL FORCE THAT ATTACKED THE BLUE CAPITAL CITY. HIS FRIENDS MANAGED TO GET AWAY, BUT HE WASN'T SO LUCKY.

I FREED HIM FROM THE BLUE PRISON IN EXCHANGE FOR HELPING ME FIND MY BROTHER, PINK. THE NAVY IS HOLDING HIM CAPTIVE, DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT TO HIM.

HE'S THEIR BLUE GUINEA PIG.

BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.



KILLIAN MAY BE YOUR FATHER, KIANI. BUT YOU CANNOT STAND WITH HIM. THIS IS NOT THE WAY.

NO, CANNON. THIS IS NOT YOUR WAY. I DID NOT NEED KILLIAN TO HELP ME HATE THE HUMANS. THEY DID THAT ON THEIR OWN.

MY WHOLE LIFE, WE HAVE BEEN RUNNING AWAY LIKE FRIGHTENED CHILDREN-- HIDING FROM AN INFERIOR AND WEAKER SPECIES.

WE ARE BETTER THAN THEM. THE HUMANS WILL LEARN THAT THE SEAS DO NOT BELONG TO THEM... AND THEY NEVER DID.

THE HUMANS ARE STILL EVOLVING AS A CIVILIZATION.

YOUR RECENT ATTACKS ONLY FUEL THEIR FEAR AND AGGRESSION.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT OUR OWN HISTORY, OUR OWN INNER CONFLICTS DURING CHALLENGING TIMES?

IT WAS NOT SO LONG AGO THAT WE TOO WAGED SUCH WARS, THAT WE TOO ATTACKED THE UNKNOWN.

ENOUGH WITH THE HISTORY LESSON.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE PAST, CANNON.





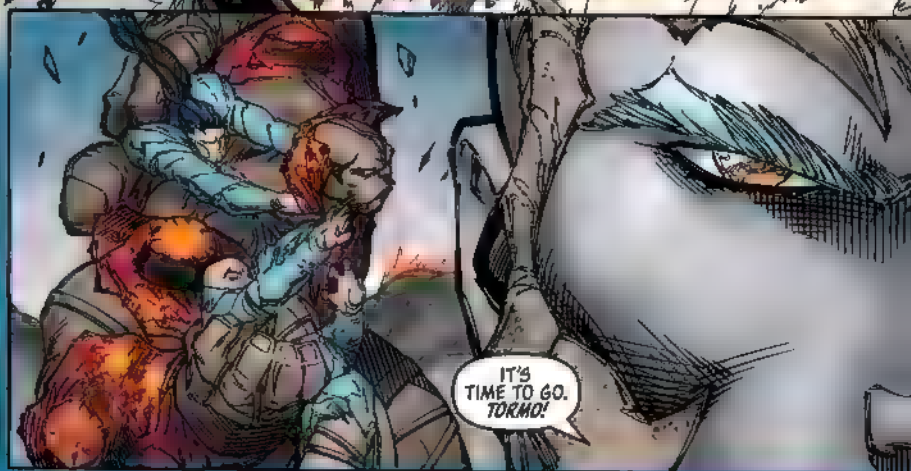
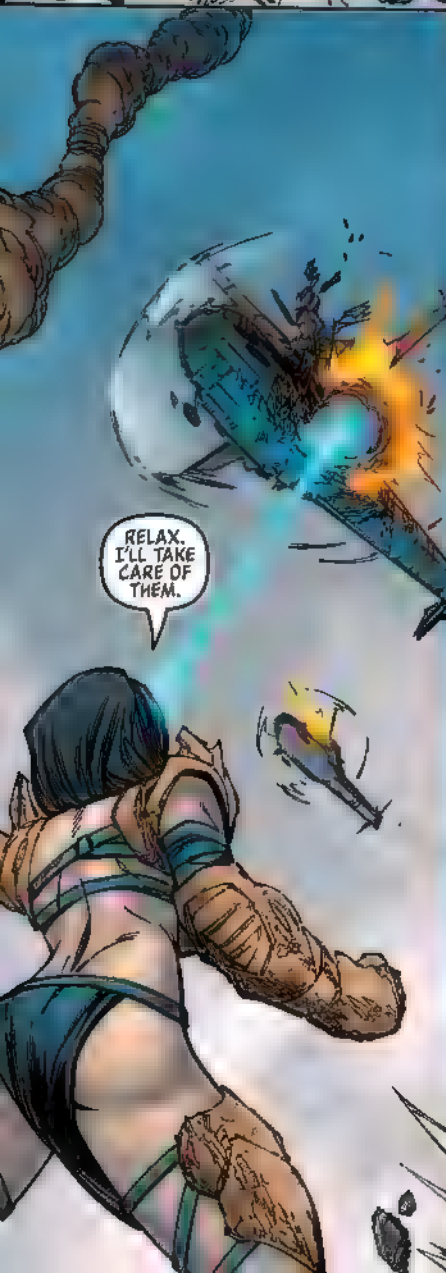
IT'S ABOUT
OUR FUTURE.



CANNON...

...I DIDN'T
COME HERE TO
FIGHT WITH
YOU.

YOU SHOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
OF THAT BEFORE YOU
ALIGNED YOURSELF
WITH HIM.





IF ONLY I COULD MAKE HER UNDERSTAND, MAKE HER SEE THAT IF THEY CONTINUE WITH THEIR ATTACKS, NONE OF US WILL HAVE A FUTURE. NOT THE BLUE WORLD, NOT THE HUMANITY WE LIVE IN.

BUT WHEN I LOOK INTO KIANI'S EYES, I FINALLY SEE THAT SHE WAS ALWAYS HIDING THE TRUTH FROM ME. SHE UNDERSTANDS WHAT SHE IS DOING. SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE MEANS.



KIANI SIMPLY DOESN'T CARE.

LOOKS LIKE WE DID IT. THEY'RE RETREATING.

KILLIAN'S NOT RETREATING.

HE'S EVACUATING.



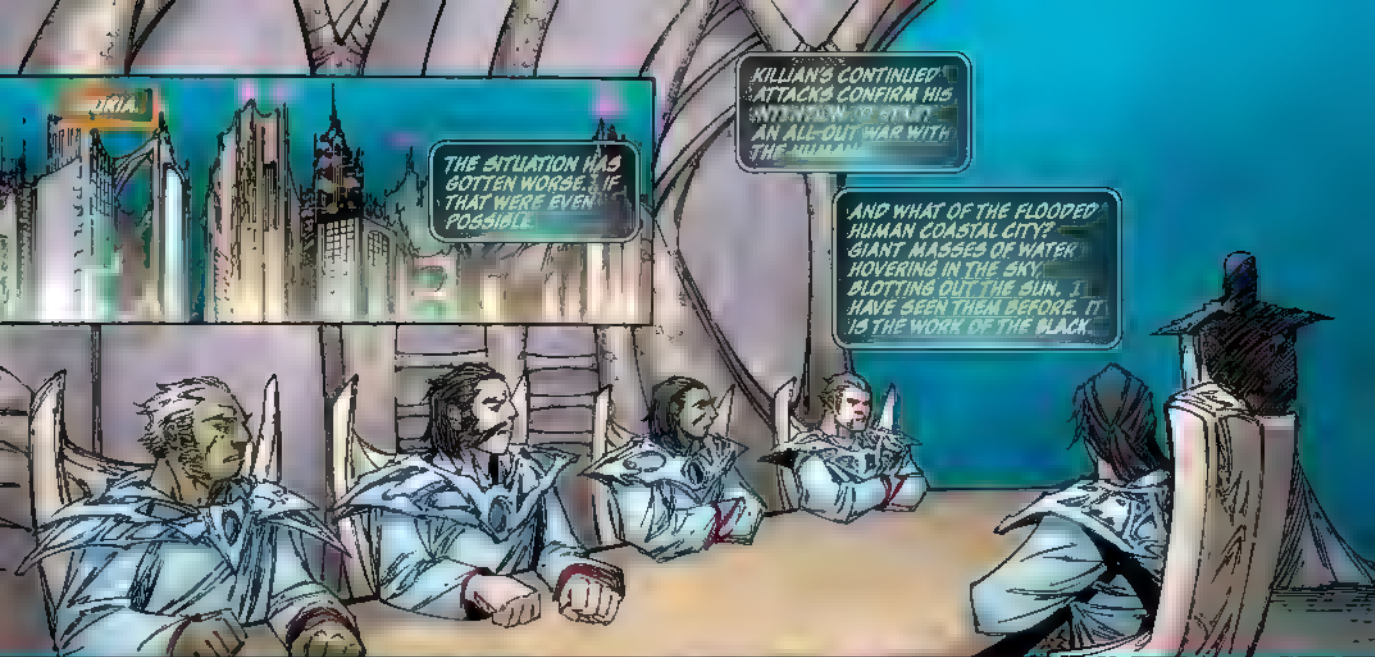
WITH HIS
HATE



WITH HIS
VENGEANCE...



KILLIAN HAS
DOOMED HIS ALL



THE SITUATION HAS
GOTTEN WORSE, IF
THAT WERE EVEN
POSSIBLE.

KILLIAN'S CONTINUED
ATTACKS CONFIRM HIS
INTENTION TO START
AN ALL-OUT WAR WITH
THE HUMANS.

AND WHAT OF THE FLOODED
HUMAN COASTAL CITY?
GIANT MASSES OF WATER
HOVERING IN THE SKY,
BLOTTING OUT THE SUN. I
HAVE SEEN THEM BEFORE. IT
IS THE WORK OF THE BLACK.



I RESPECT THE
OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE COUNCIL, BUT
THEY ARE STAGNANT.
THEY THINK ONLY OF
TREATING THE
HUMANS AS
ENEMIES.

WE NEED A NEW
COURSE. WE NEED
A REAL SOLUTION.



COUNCILMAN
NARJB BRINGS UP A
GOOD POINT. THIS ATTACK
BY THE BLACK COULD WORK
TO OUR ADVANTAGE IF IT
DEFLECTS THE HUMANS'
ATTENTION TOWARD
THEM.

WHAT ARE
YOUR THOUGHTS,
NIN'NOW?

I DO
NOT TRUST THE
BLACK. WHO IS TO SAY THAT
THEIR FUTURE ACTIONS WON'T
MEAN DIRE CONSEQUENCES
FOR OUR PEOPLE? I STAND
BY WHAT I HAVE SAID
BEFORE.

THE TIME HAS
COME TO REVEAL
OUR EXISTENCE TO
THE SURFACE
WORLD.

SIPHON,
WE'VE HAD
TWO VOTES
ALREADY.

THEN
LET'S HAVE
A THIRD!



I MAY BE THE YOUNGEST COUNCIL MEMBER AMONG THE BLUE, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN MY OPINION DOES NOT TAKE OUR VAST HISTORY INTO ACCOUNT.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE BOUNDARIES WERE NOT SO SHARPLY DRAWN, WHEN JOURNEYING TO THE SURFACE WORLD WAS NOT BANNER WE ALWAYS CONCEALED OUR EXISTENCE FROM THE HUMANS, BUT TO RUN AND HIDE FROM THEM. THAT IS A RELATIVELY NEW PRACTICE.

WHEN MY FATHER WAS A BOY, HE WOULD TRAVEL TO A NUMBER OF BLUE COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVED IN FAR SHALLOW WATERS.

AS THE HUMANS EXPANDED ACROSS THE GLOBE AND ACHIEVED THEIR OWN SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS, WE PULLED FURTHER BACK, USING OUR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT OUR REGION.

DIRECT CONTACT BECAME MORE THAN A DREAM. IT WAS CONSIDERED A SUICIDE.

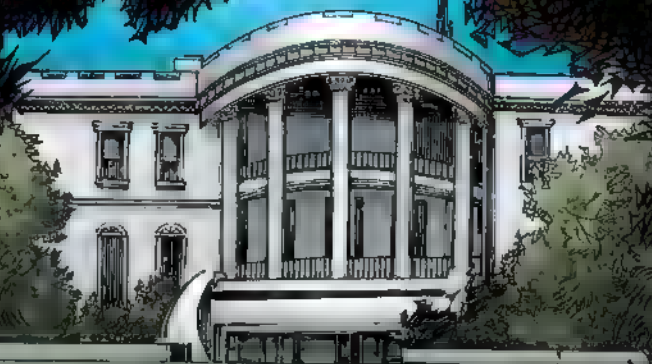
MOST OF YOU LEE THE WAY DOWN THIS PATH, AND WHILE YOU TEMPORARILY SAFEGUARDED OUR WAY OF LIFE, YOU HAVE NEVER REALIZED YOU WERE NOT ALONE.

NOW, WE HAVE RETREATED AS FAR AS WE CAN GO. THERE IS NO DEEPER PLACE TO INHABIT, AND OUR TECHNOLOGY CAN NO LONGER KEEP US SAFE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO STOP ISOLATING OURSELVES. THE HUMANS MAY DWELL ON THE SURFACE, AND WE MAY LIVE HERE, BUT WE CAN NO LONGER LIVE IN THE WORLD OF OUR FATHERS.

WE WOULD

...AND IT'S TIME THEY
REALIZE THAT WELL...



IT'S BEEN A
HELL OF A WEEK,
GENTLEMEN.

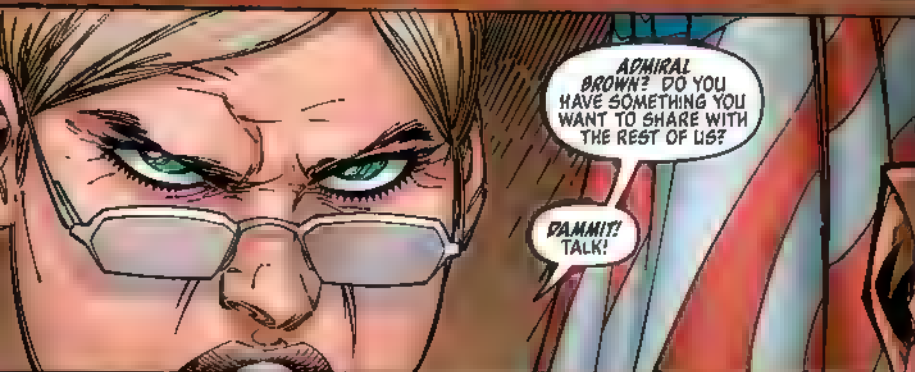
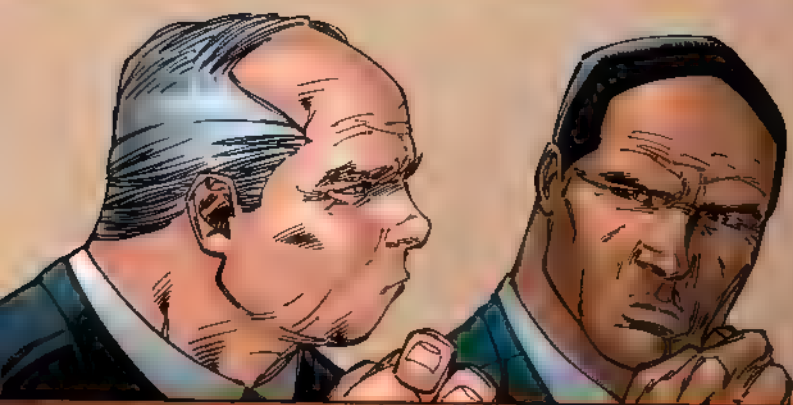
ALMOST FIFTY LIVES
LOST AT PEARL HARBOR...
MORE THAN 200 NAVAL SOLDIERS
KILLED OR WOUNDED IN SAN DIEGO...
WORD FROM THE BRAZILIAN
GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THE
DEATH TOLL IN RIO DE JANEIRO
AT 3,000 AND CLIMBING.



ABOUT THE ONLY
GOOD THING TO REPORT
IS THAT THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER SHIZOUKA, IN
LIGHT OF ALL OF THIS, HAVE
RESOLVED THE RECENT
CONFLICT WITH
JAPAN.

I NEED TO BRIEF
THE PRESIDENT IN THIRTY
MINUTES, SO LET'S LEAVE THE
THEORIES AND CONJECTURE
OUT OF THE EQUATION FOR
NOW AND START WITH
WHAT WE KNOW.





DAMNIT!
TALK!



WE FIRST
LEARNED OF THEIR
EXISTENCE IN
1974.



APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES OFF THE COAST OF HAWAII, WE DISCOVERED A STRANGE UNDERWATER VESSEL WITH TECHNOLOGY UNLIKE ANYTHING WE'D EVER SEEN.

IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE JAPANESE, THE DEEP MARINE DISCOVERY, ON DND AS THEY CALL IT, WAS CREATED TO STUDY THE WRECKAGE.

IT DIDN'T TAKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO FIGURE OUT THAT THE SHIP WASN'T MADE BY HUMAN HANDS, BUT WE ASKED SEVERAL ANYWAY.

YEARS LATER, AFTER A PRECISE MISHAP IN SPACE CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF A NASA SPACE SHUTTLE, A SEARCH MISSION IN THE JUNGLES OF CENTRAL AMERICA UNCOVERED A DAMAGED SATELLITE BUILT WITH SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY.

CARBON DATING PUT THE METAL OF THE SATELLITE AT MORE THAN 4000 YEARS OLD.

YOU MEAN YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT ALL OF THIS SINCE THE 70'S, AND YOU'RE JUST TELLING US NOW???

HARDLY, THE DISCOVERY IN CENTRAL AMERICA WAS MADE BY A CAPTAIN MAYLANDER. HE KEPT THE NAVY COMPLETELY IN THE DARK.

WE LATER LEARNED THAT MAYLANDER HAD ACTUALLY MADE CONTACT WITH ONE OF THESE WINGS. HE EVEN WENT AS FAR AS TO STRIKE SOME KIND OF DEAL IN ORDER TO GAIN AN UPPER HAND MILITARILY.

EVENTUALLY, MAYLANDER'S SECRET ALLY BECAME HIS GREATEST ENEMY. LATEST REPORTS INDICATED THAT THIS ONE KNOWN AS KILLIAN WAS DEAD, BUT THESE RECENT ATTACKS SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

SINCE ONLY THE NAVY HAS ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THESE... THESE PEOPLE TELL ME THAT YOU HAVE AN IDEA ON HOW TO FIGHT THEM.

SOMEWHERE OVER COLORADO.

YOU TWO
ARE REAL PIECES
OF WORK. YOU
KNOW THAT?

I MEAN,
BEING **TRAITORS**
TO YOUR COUNTRY IS
ONE THING, BUT HOW DO
YOU AND YOUR **BOYFRIEND**
FEEL ABOUT BETRAYING
YOUR ENTIRE **SPECIES**?

WELL,
TECHNICALLY
I'M **NOT** HUMAN. SO
THERE'S A PROBLEM
WITH YOUR PREMISE
RIGHT AWAY.

BUT, LET
ME ASK YOU,
WHAT WOULD YOU
DO IF YOUR
COUNTRY...

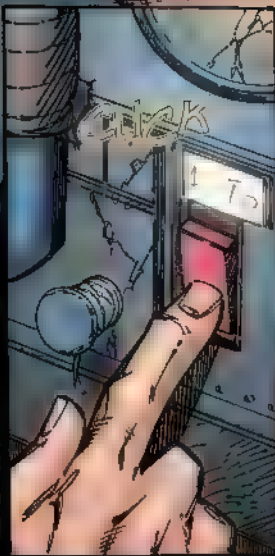
... IF YOUR
GOVERNMENT
HAD **ATTACKED**,
BRUTALIZED, AND
VIOLATED
EVERYTHING
YOU CARE
ABOUT?

RIGHT.
THE PRETTY WHITE
GIRL IS GOING TO EXPLAIN
THE HARSH REALITIES OF
OPPRESSION TO THE
PRIVILEGED BLACK
SOLDIER?

FORGET IT.
YOU... YOU GOT
YOUR ORDERS

THAT'S RIGHT.
I GOT MY ORDERS.
AND WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT?

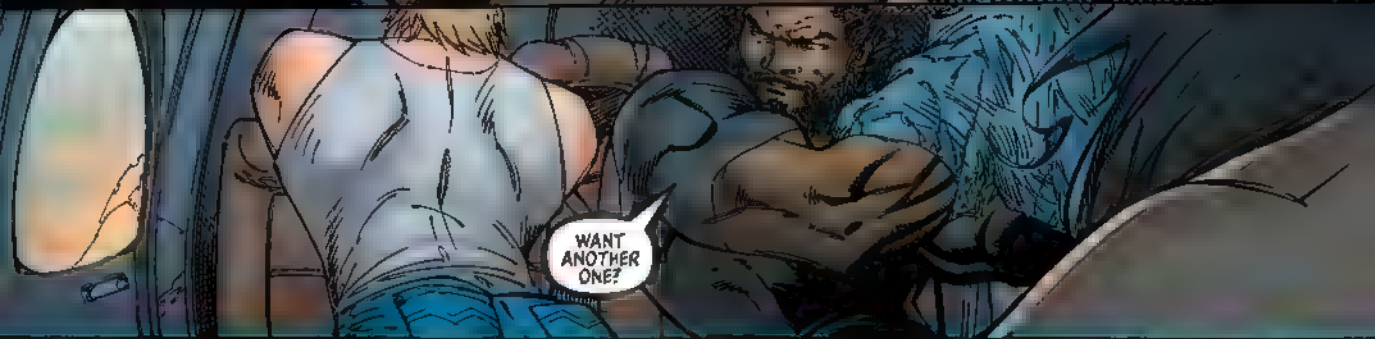
ANY **ENOUGH**.



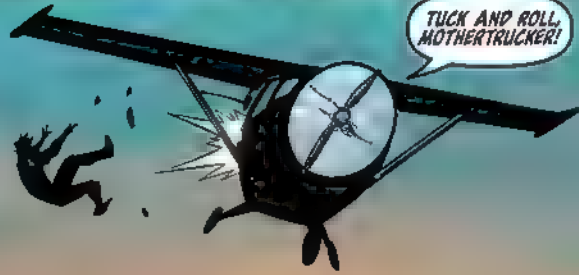
WE'RE
CLOSING IN ON
THE COORDINATES.
THERE'S NO PLACE TO LAND
OUT HERE, SO WE'RE
GOING TO NEED THE
CUTES.

I TOLD YOU
IT WAS REMOTE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE
STOLEN A HELICOPTER
INSTEAD.

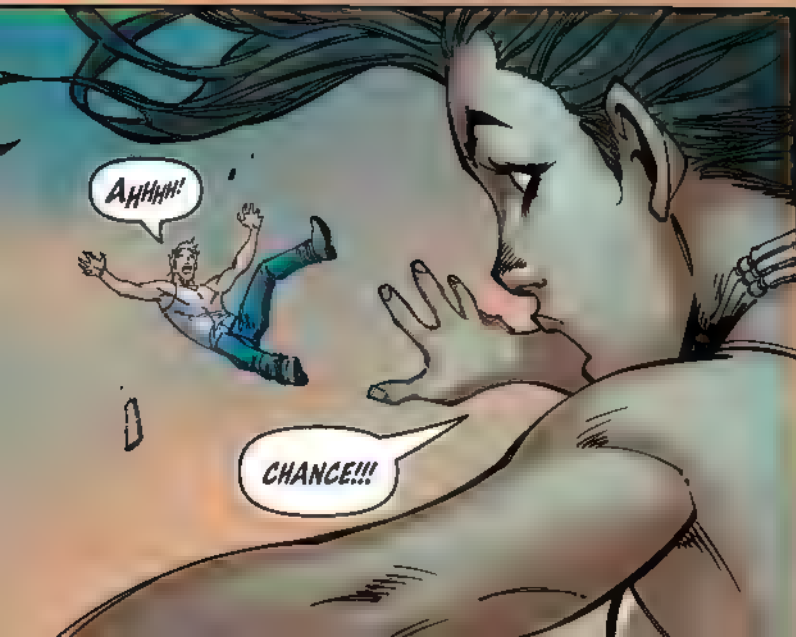
THANKS
FOR THE
TIP.



WANT
ANOTHER
ONE?



TUCK AND ROLL,
MOTHERTRUCKER!



AHHH!!

CHANCE!!!



WHO'S MORE
IMPORTANT TO YOU,
PRINCESS?

ME OR YOUR
BOYFRIEND?



BOTH.

I DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF THIS
WILL WORK

AHHH!

I SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE
ATTENTION IN PHYSICS CLASS

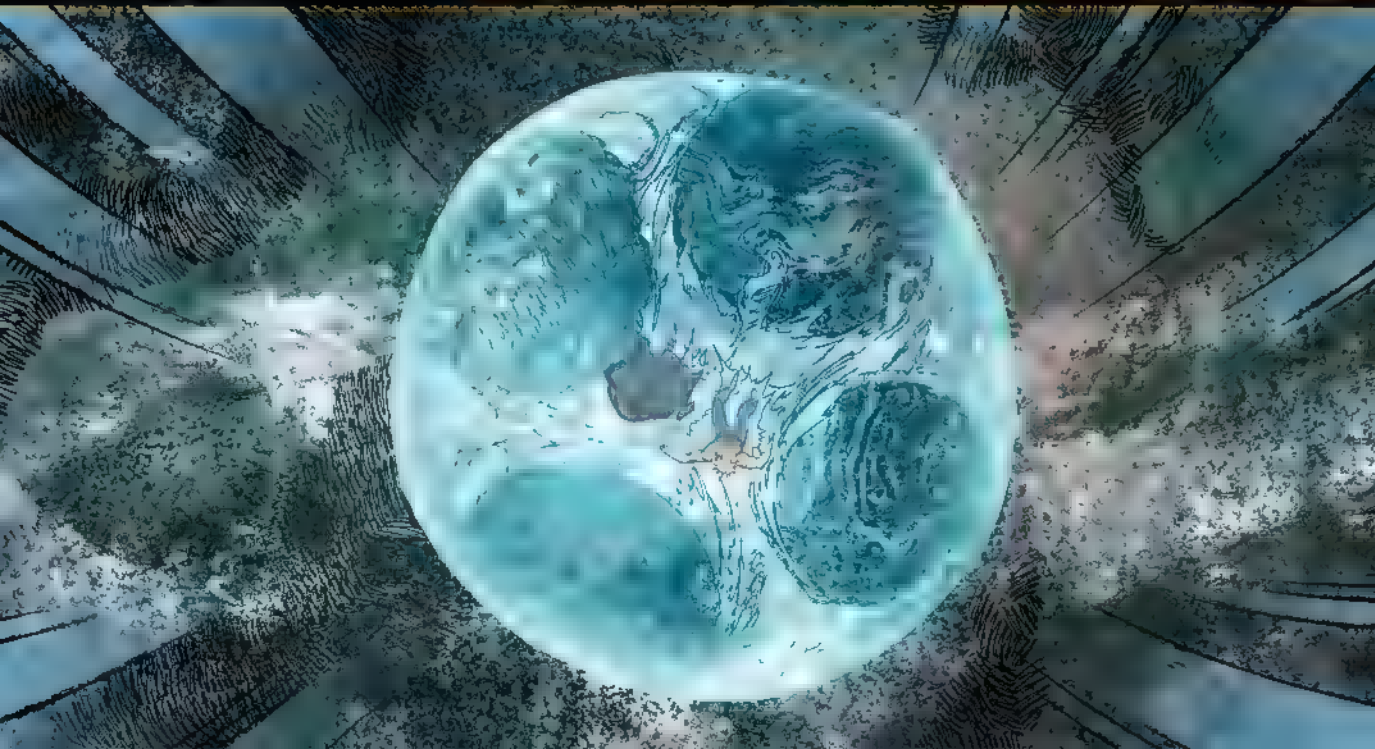


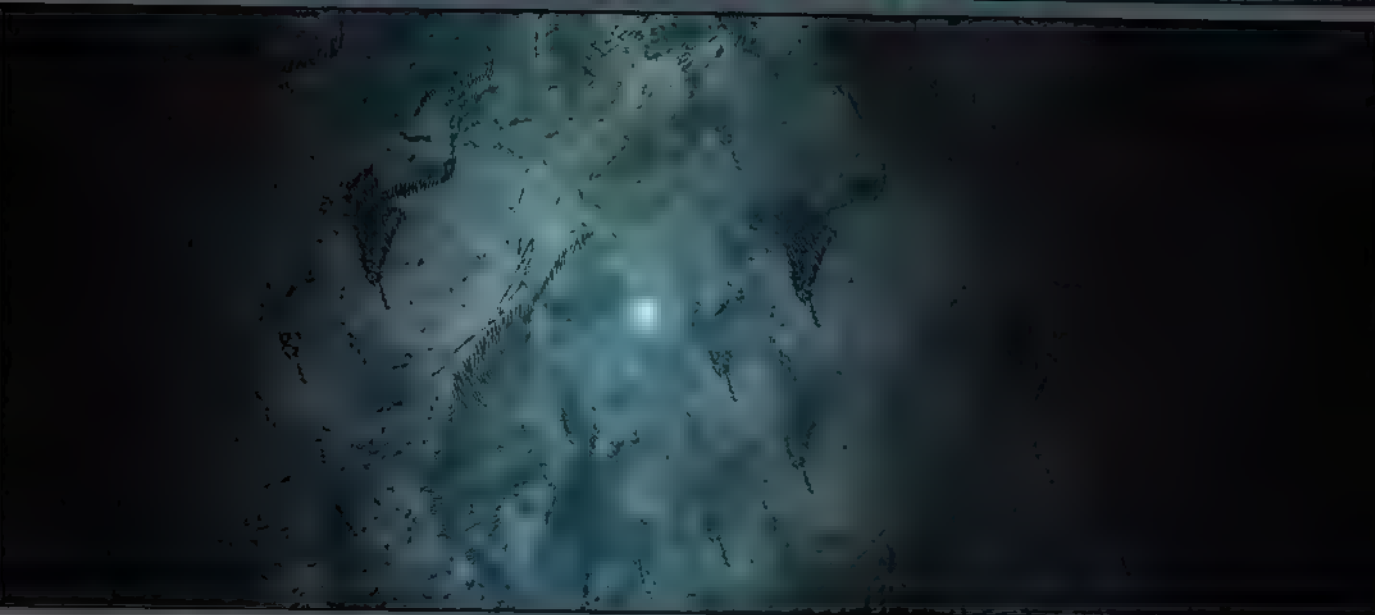
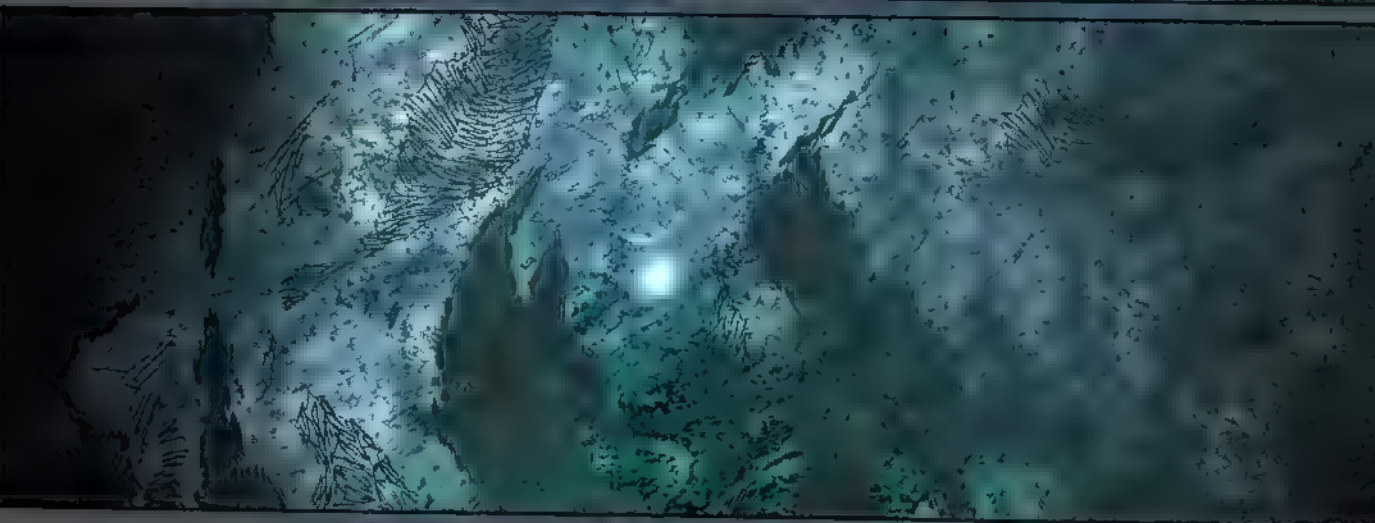
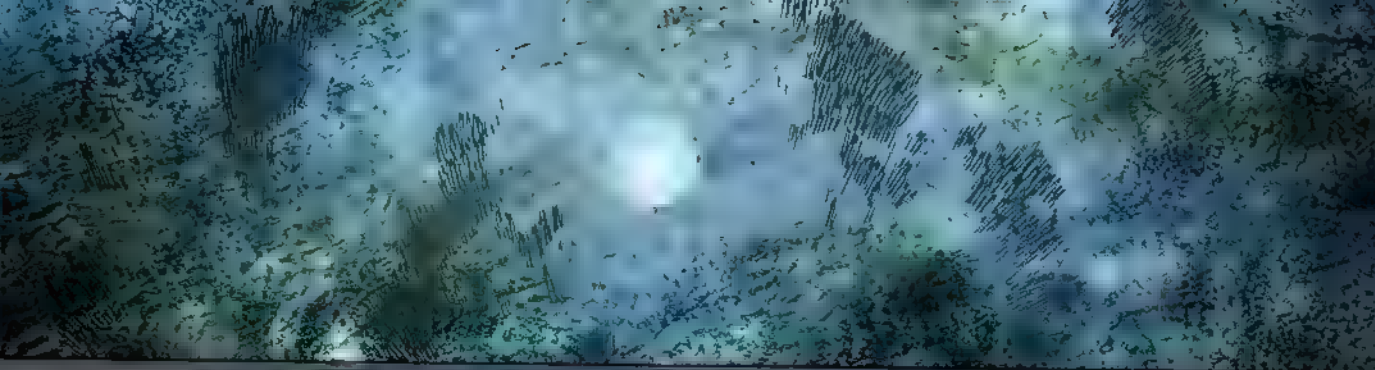
UNNN!

CHANCE!

ASPEN!
WHAT NOW???

TAKE
A DEEP
BREATH!!!

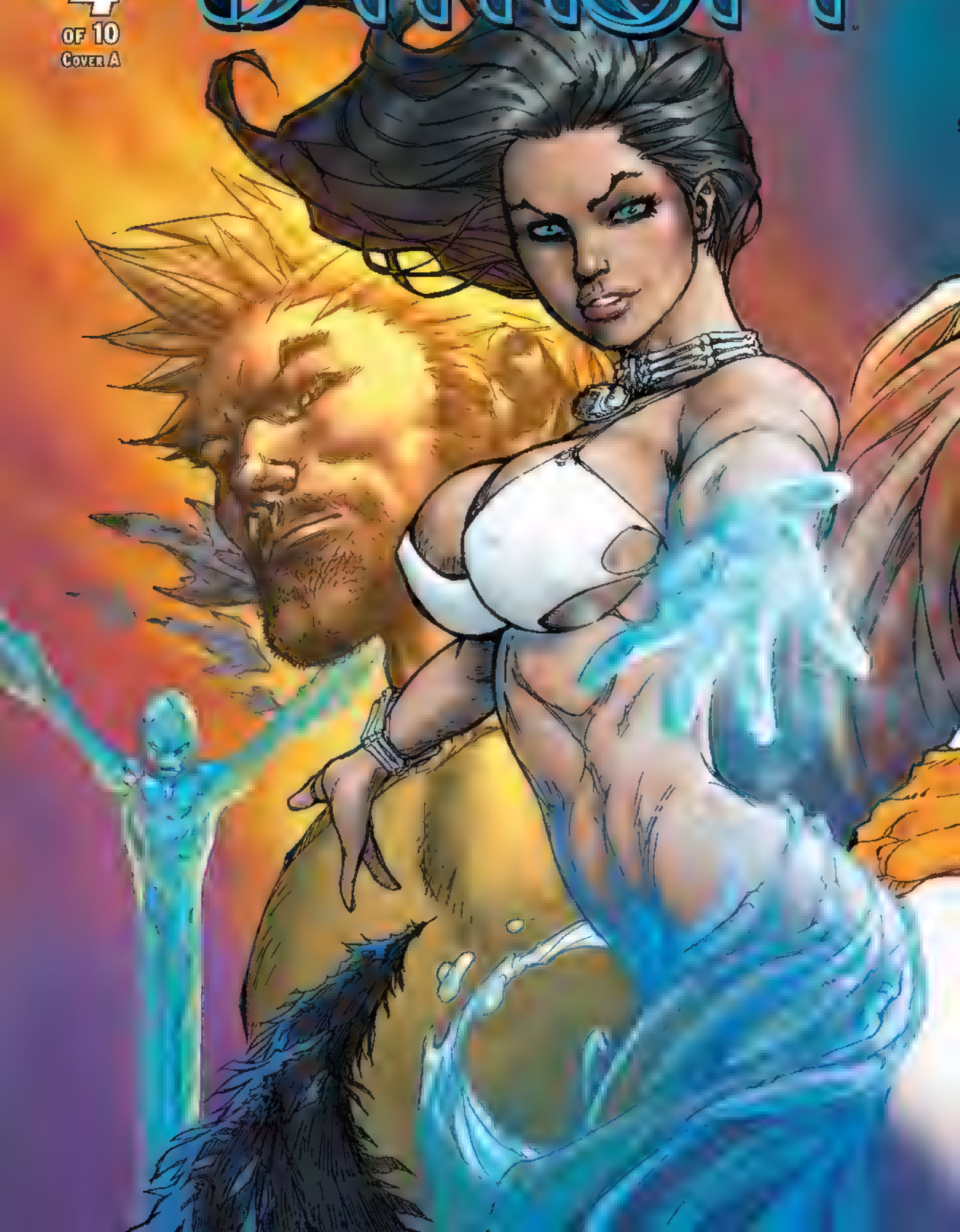




ASPEN
Vol. 3

#4
OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM





#4
OF 10
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM





VOL. 3

#4

OF 10
COVER C

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM





VOL. 3

#4

OF 10
COVER D

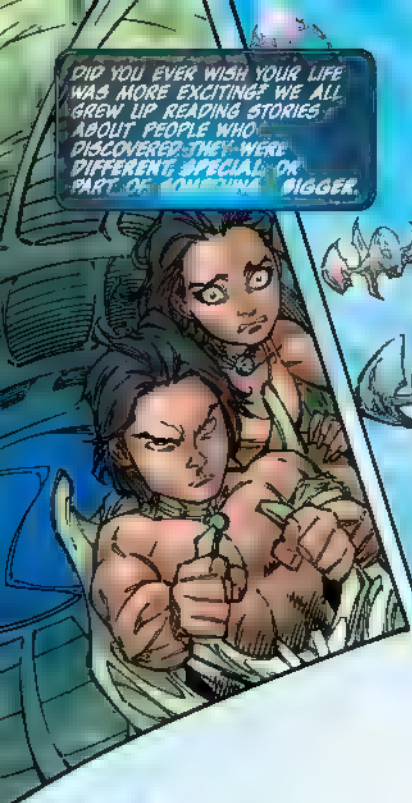
MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



FATHOM

JOSH REED
letters

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL 1-800-COMICBOOK



DID YOU EVER WISH YOUR LIFE WAS MORE EXCITING? WE ALL GREW UP READING STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE WHO DISCOVERED THEY WERE DIFFERENT, SPECIAL, OR PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.

WELL, BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

I LIVED A NORMAL LIFE IN SAN DIEGO UNTIL I FOUND OUT I WAS ACTUALLY PART OF A SECRET RACE OF BEINGS THAT LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.



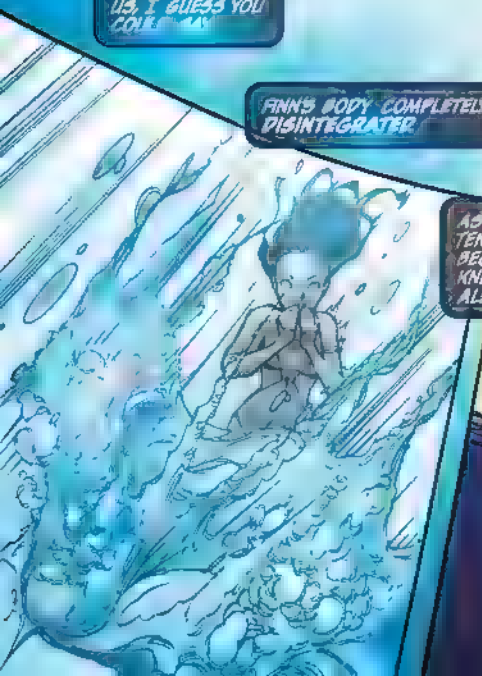
I WAS BORN DOWN THERE, AND LIVED WITH MY PARENTS UNTIL THEY DIED.

OR RATHER, UNTIL THEY WERE MURDERED BY A VIOLENT RADICAL NAMED KILLIAN.

HE TRIED TO KILL ME... AND MY BROTHER, FINN.

BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG, OR WENT RIGHT FOR US. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY.

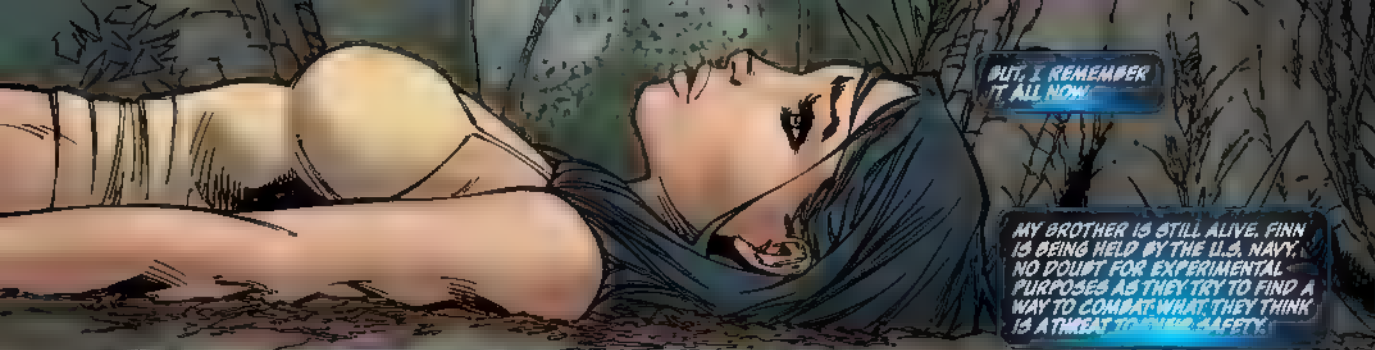
FINN'S BODY COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED.



AS FOR ME, SOMEHOW THAT FLASH STOLE TEN YEARS FROM ME IN AN INSTANT AS I BECAME DISPLACED IN TIME. NOT THAT I KNEW IT AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE I ALSO LOST ALL MEMORY OF THAT LIFE...



...OF THE BLUE, OF THE BLACK, OF EVERYTHING.



BUT, I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW.

MY BROTHER IS STILL ALIVE. FINN IS BEING HELD BY THE U.S. NAVY. NO DOUBT FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES AS THEY TRY TO FIND A WAY TO COMBAT WHAT THEY THINK IS A THREAT TO THEIR SAFETY.



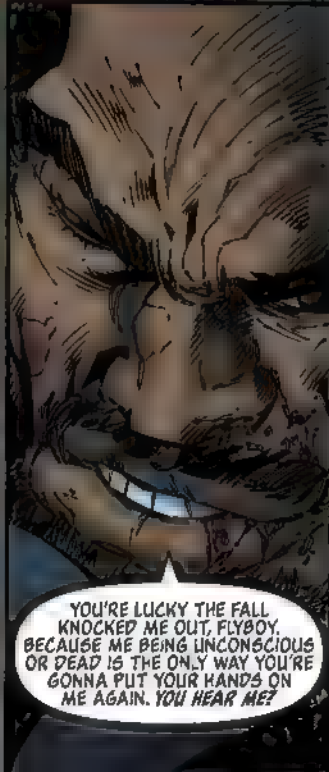
THERE'S PLENTY OF BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THE HUMANS AND THE BLUE. AGGRESSION ON BOTH SIDES, BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT. I JUST CARE ABOUT MY BROTHER.

COME ON, WAKE UP! WAKE UP SO I CAN KNOCK YOU OUT AGAIN.

CHANCE. STOP.

HE... HE THREW ME OUT OF A PLANE, ASPEN! A PLANE!

I KNOW, BUT WE NEED HIM.

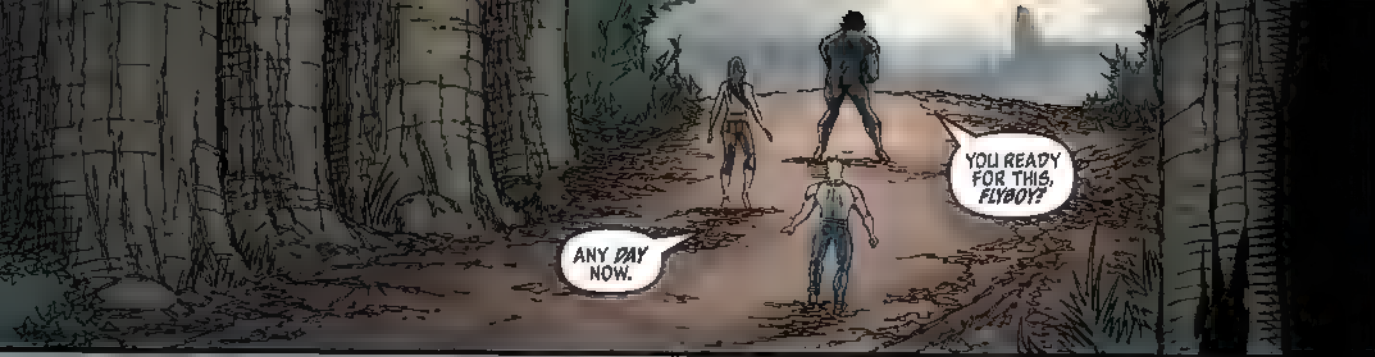


YOU'RE LUCKY THE FALL KNOCKED ME OUT, FLYBOY. BECAUSE ME BEING UNCONSCIOUS OR DEAD IS THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE GONNA PUT YOUR HANDS ON ME AGAIN. YOU HEAR ME?



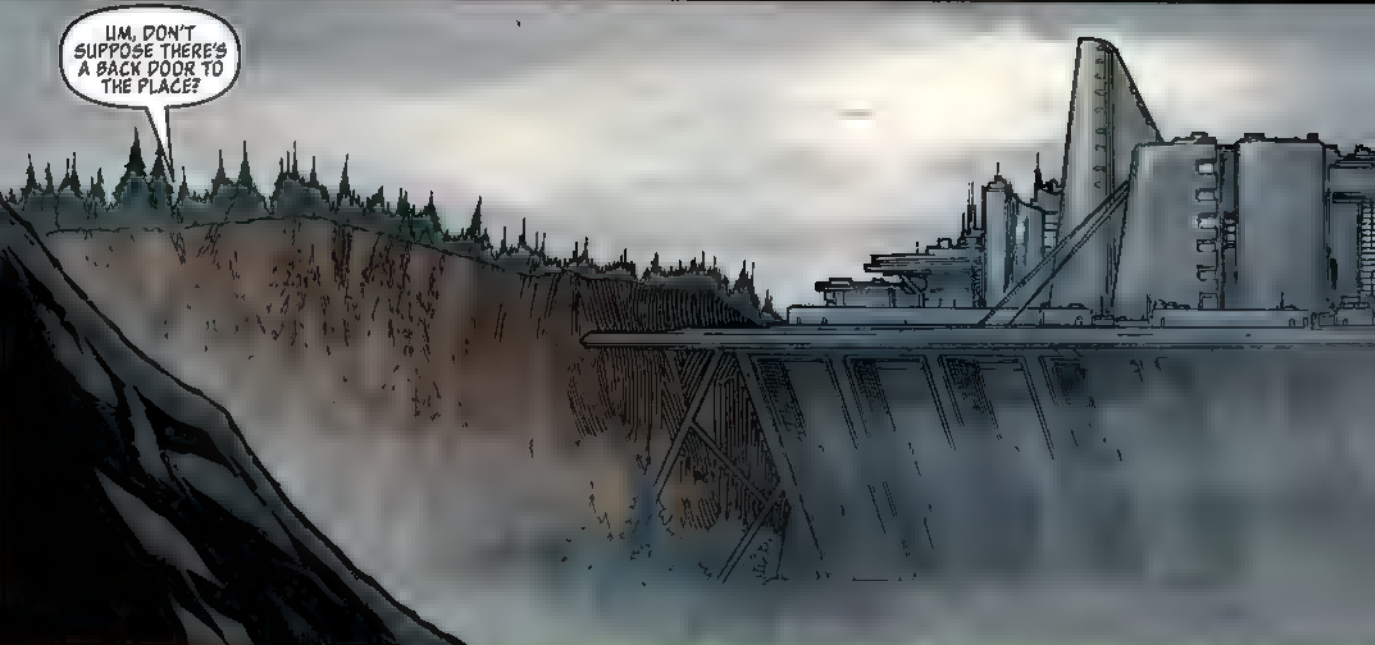
WELL, I DON'T NEED TO USE MY HANDS NOW DO I?

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU SHUT UP AND TAKE US TO YOUR LITTLE HIDEAWAY.



ANY DAY
NOW.

YOU READY
FOR THIS,
FLYBOY?

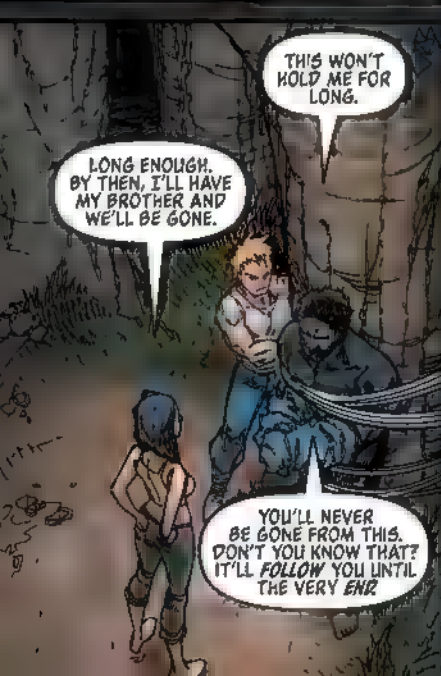


UM, DON'T
SUPPOSE THERE'S
A BACK DOOR TO
THE PLACE?



OKAY, I DID
MY PART. ARE
WE DONE?

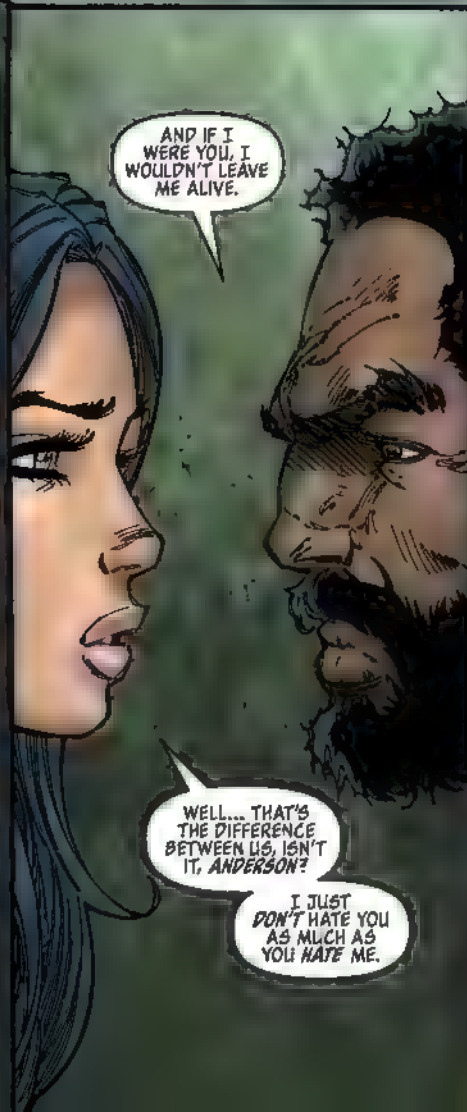
ALMOST.



LONG ENOUGH.
BY THEN, I'LL HAVE
MY BROTHER AND
WE'LL BE GONE.

THIS WON'T
HOLD ME FOR
LONG.

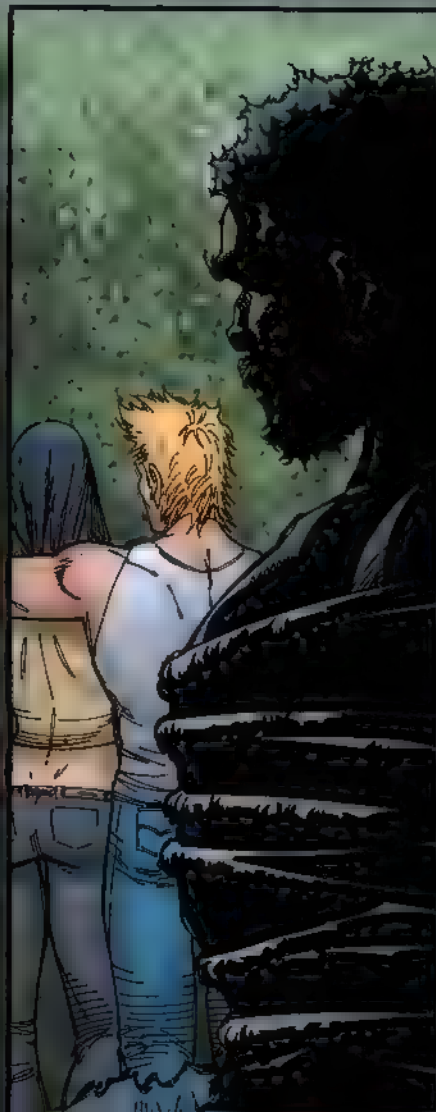
YOU'LL NEVER
BE GONE FROM THIS.
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'LL FOLLOW YOU UNTIL
THE VERY END.



AND IF I
WERE YOU, I
WOULDN'T LEAVE
ME ALIVE.

WELL... THAT'S
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US, ISN'T
IT, ANDERSON?

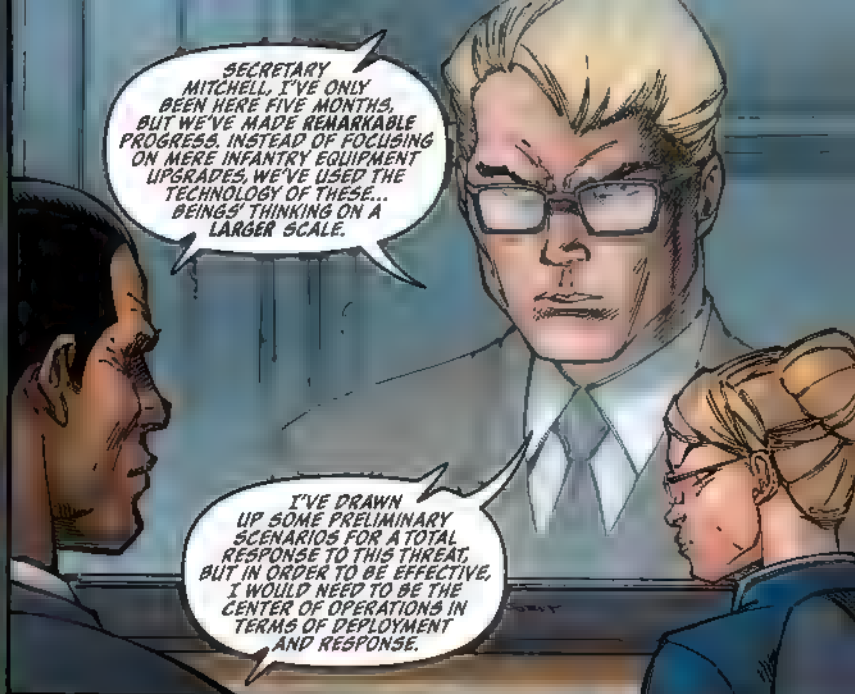
I JUST
DON'T HATE YOU
AS MUCH AS
YOU HATE ME.





THE NATION REMAINS ON HIGH ALERT... HELL, THE ENTIRE WORLD IS ON HIGH ALERT. IT'S BEEN QUIET SINCE THE ATTACK ON SAN DIEGO AND THE INCIDENT IN RIO, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO SUGGEST MORE ATTACKS WON'T FOLLOW.

ALL THE ARMED FORCES ARE MOBILIZED AND READY, BUT I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU BRING TO THE TABLE.



SECRETARY MITCHELL, I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FIVE MONTHS, BUT WE'VE MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS. INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON MORE INFANTRY EQUIPMENT UPGRADES, WE'VE USED THE TECHNOLOGY OF THESE... BEINGS' THINKING ON A LARGER SCALE.

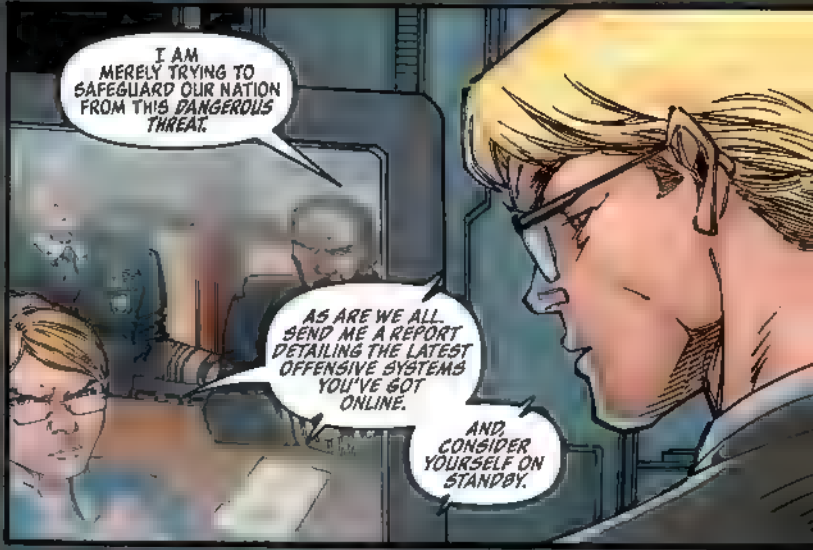
I'VE DRAWN UP SOME PRELIMINARY SCENARIOS FOR A TOTAL RESPONSE TO THIS THREAT, BUT IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE, I WOULD NEED TO BE THE CENTER OF OPERATIONS IN TERMS OF DEPLOYMENT AND RESPONSE.



IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU MISTER CALLOWAY...

...I'LL STICK WITH THE GENERALS AND ADMIRALS WITH THE STARS AND BARS TO MAKE THOSE KINDS OF DECISIONS.

BUT, WE'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER ADVISEMENT.



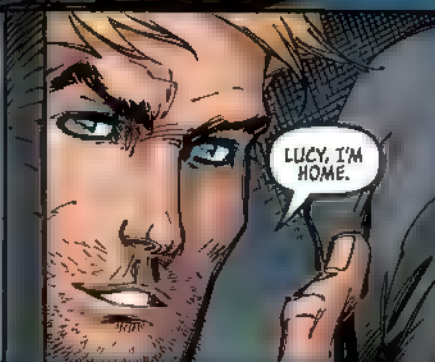
I AM MERELY TRYING TO SAFEGUARD OUR NATION FROM THIS DANGEROUS THREAT.

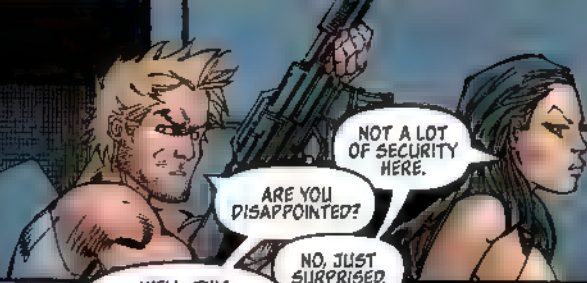
AS ARE WE ALL. SEND ME A REPORT DETAILING THE LATEST OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS YOU'VE GOT ONLINE.

AND, CONSIDER YOURSELF ON STANDBY.



YES, MAAM.





NOT A LOT
OF SECURITY
HERE.

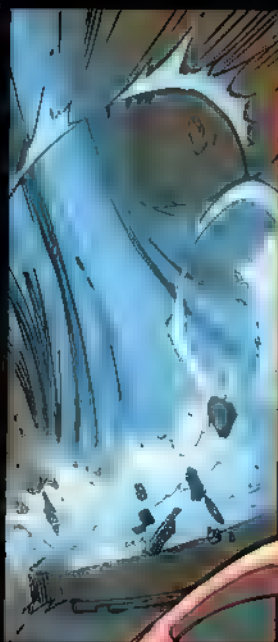
ARE YOU
DISAPPOINTED?

NO, JUST
SURPRISED.

WELL, THIS
PLACE SEEMS MORE
GEARED FOR R&D. YOU
KNOW, BUNSEN BURNERS
AND BEAKERS AS
OPPOSED TO GUNS
AND AMMO.



UNLESS YOU
GOT A KEY OR
SOMETHING, IT'S
TIME TO MAKE
SOME NOISE.



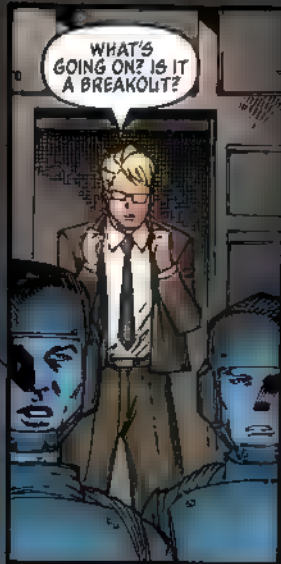
WHEEOOO

WHEEOOO

LOUD
ENOUGH FOR
YOU?

NOW LET'S
FIND MY BROTHER
AND GET THE HELL
OUT OF HERE.





WHAT'S GOING ON? IS IT A BREAKOUT?



NO SIR, NOT A BREAKOUT. A BREAK-IN.



THIS IS CALLOWAY. JONES, DO YOU COPY?

I'M HERE.

LOOKS LIKE A VOLUNTEER JUST WALKED IN OUT OF THE COLD. POWER UP THE *TIGERSHARKS*. THE TARGET'S IN THE NORTHWEST CORRIDOR... LEVEL THREE.

YES, SIR.

WAIT... ONE... SECOND...



CHANCE?
YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH!



WHAT
MAKES YOU
SAY THAT?

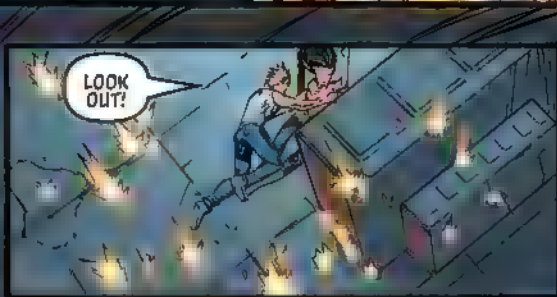
THIS MUST
BE IT.

WELL,
IT'S THE **BIGGEST**
DOOR WE'VE SEEN
SO FAR.

HOW
ABOUT WE
TRY THIS?



FINN!



LOOK OUT!



WE'D BETTER HURRY. MORE TROUBLE IS PROBABLY ON THE WAY.



I HAVE AN IDEA.
TIME TO APPLY SOME PRESSURE!

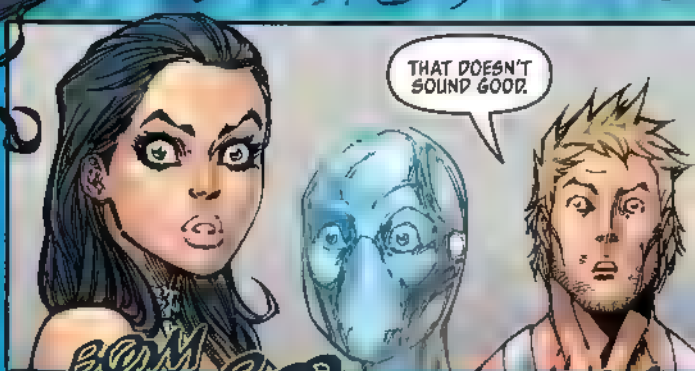
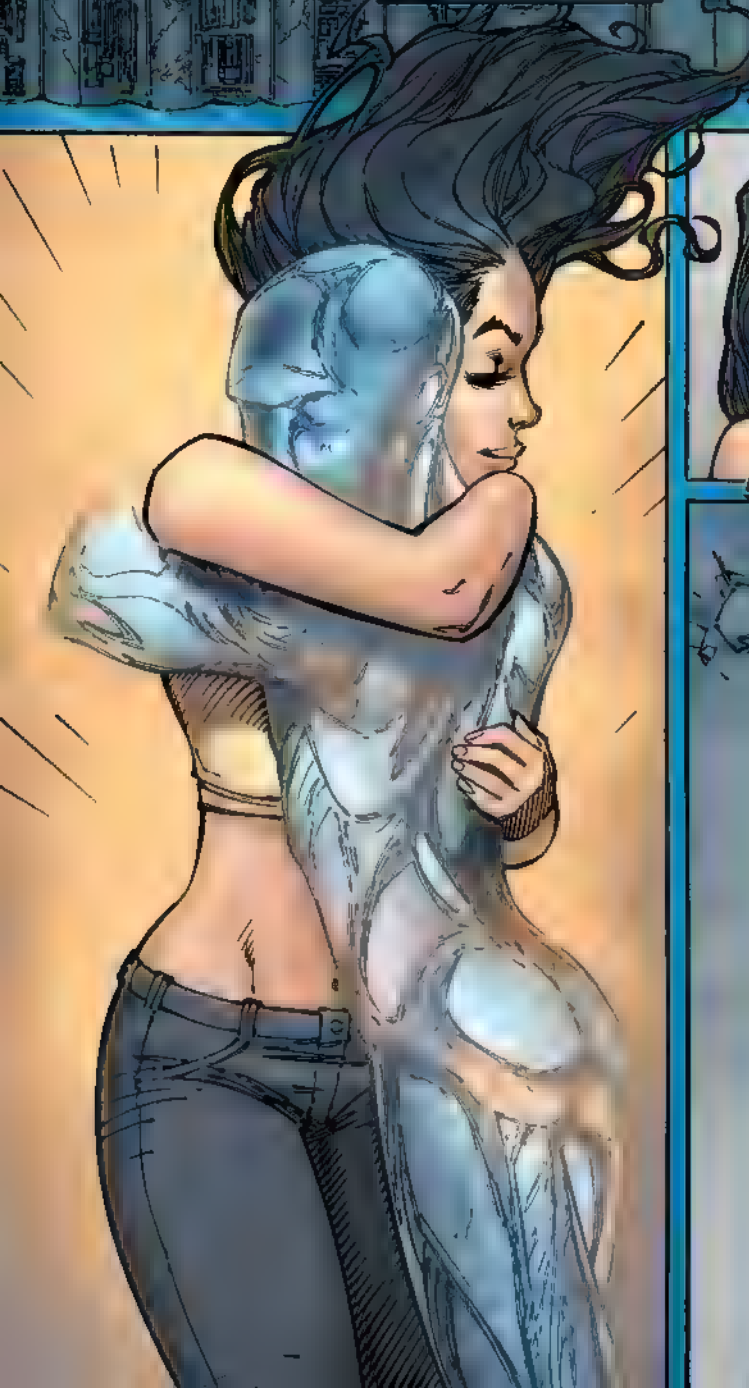
KRACK
KRACK
KRACK
KRACK



A... ASPEN?

YEAH, IT'S ME.
FINN, IS IT YOU?
IS IT REALLY
YOU?

I HOPE SO.
OTHERWISE, I'M
WORSE OFF THAN
I THOUGHT.



THAT DOESN'T
SOUND GOOD.

BOM

BOM

BOM



WE SHOULD
GO.



TARGETS
ACQUIRED. ALL
SYSTEMS AT FULL
CAPACITY.

FIRE!



JESUS!

GREAT...
BIGGER AND BADDER
TIGERSHARKS. THAT'S
JUST WHAT WE NEED
RIGHT NOW.

AND THESE
BASTARDS ARE
BULLETPROOF,
TOO!

WELL, I'M
NOT FIRING
BULLETS. LET'S
JUST SEE HOW
WATERPROOF
THEY ARE.



CHANCE, GET MY BROTHER OUT. I'LL HOLD THEM OFF.

NO WAY, WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU.

BELIEVE ME, I'M NOT PLANNING ON STICKING AROUND.



I CAN FIGHT.



I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT, I CAME HERE TO GET YOU. PLEASE, I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

LET'S GO, KID YOU HEARD YOUR BIG SISTER

ASPEN IS MY LITTLE SISTER.

COULD HAVE FOOLED ME.



WE SHOULDN'T LEAVE HER LIKE THAT.

TRUST ME, SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. BESIDES, ASPEN WILL BE BETTER OFF IF WE'RE NOT THERE TO GET IN THE WAY.

SO, YOU KNOW MY SISTER?



OH, YEAH... I MEAN, WE'RE FRIENDS.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



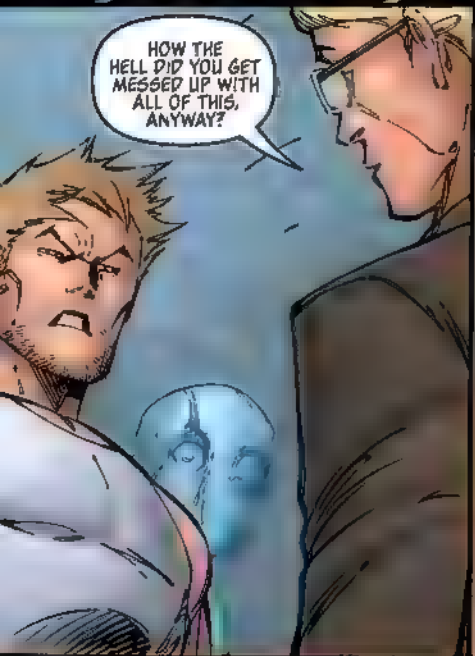
CHRIST??
WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING
HERE?



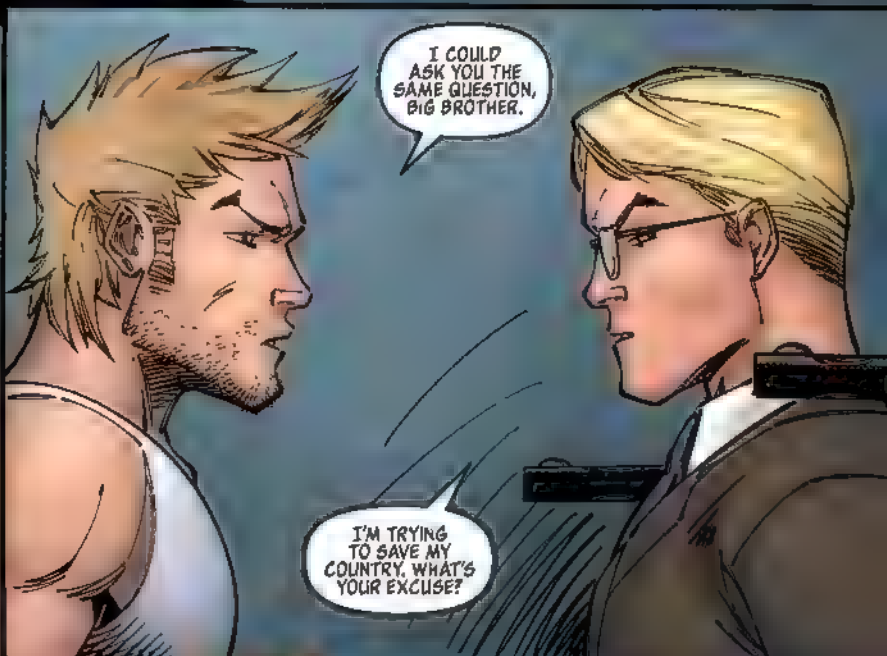
GET OUT
OF THE WAY,
NOW!

WAIT?

WAIT???
THESE SOLDIERS
ARE READY TO SHOOT
YOU DEAD IF YOU DON'T
DROP THAT GUN. SO DO
YOURSELF A FAVOR,
AND DROP IT.



HOW THE
HELL DID YOU GET
MESSED UP WITH
ALL OF THIS,
ANYWAY?



I COULD
ASK YOU THE
SAME QUESTION,
BIG BROTHER.

I'M TRYING
TO SAVE MY
COUNTRY. WHAT'S
YOUR EXCUSE?



I'M TRYING
TO DO WHAT'S
RIGHT.



THESE GUYS
DON'T STOP
COMING

HUH?

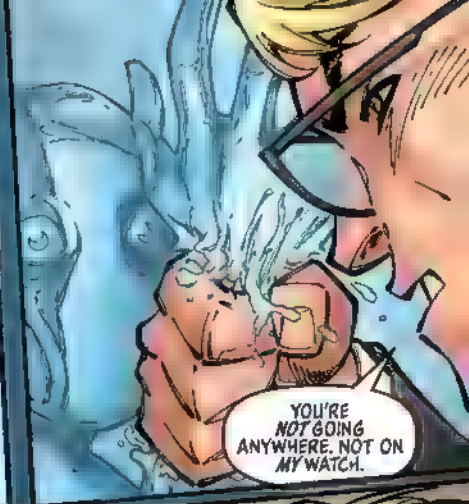
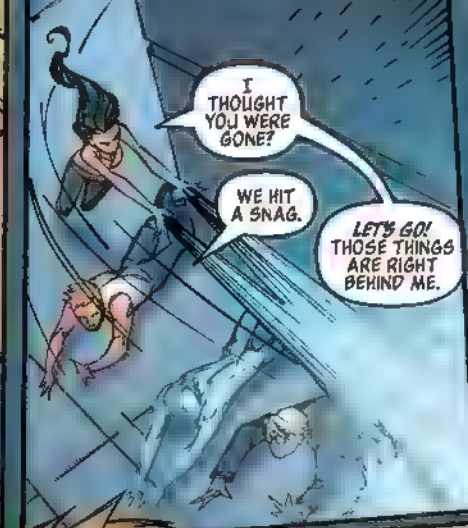
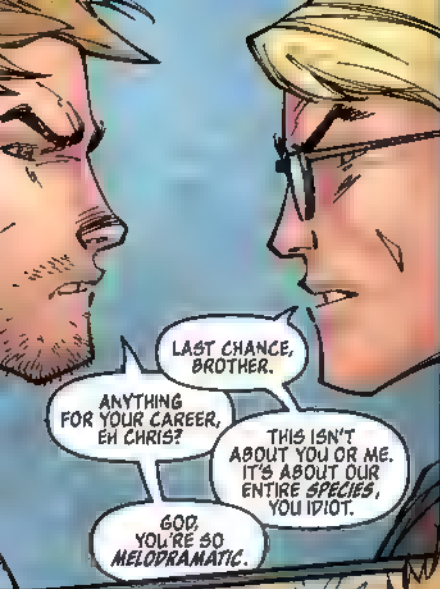
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING TO
THE WATER.
THAT WEAPON.

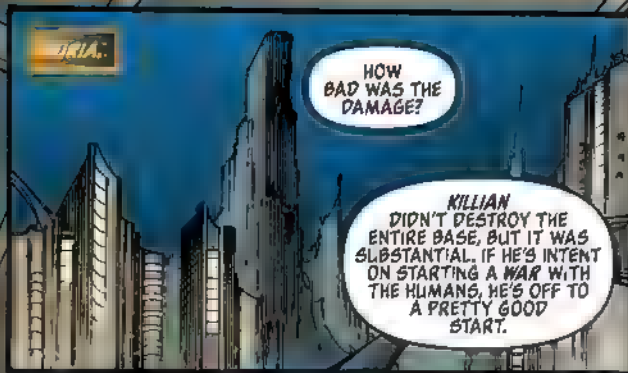
IT'S CAUSING SOME KIND
OF CHEMICAL REACTION,
CHANGING, CRYSTALLIZING
ALL OF THE WATER.

IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I'VE
GOT JUST TO DEFLECT THEIR
WEAPONS, AND I HAVEN'T
EVEN MADE A DENT ON THEM.

OKAY, ASPEN, CHANCE AND
FINN ARE CLEAR. BETTER
GET GOING TOO BEFORE
SOMETHING BAD

AND... AND
METOO!





HOW
BAD WAS THE
DAMAGE?

KILLIAN
DIDN'T DESTROY THE
ENTIRE BASE, BUT IT WAS
SUBSTANTIAL. IF HE'S INTENT
ON STARTING A WAR WITH
THE HUMANS, HE'S OFF TO
A PRETTY GOOD
START.

WE'VE
BEEN MONITORING
THEIR FLEET'S MOVEMENT.
SO FAR THEY SEEM TO
BE TAKING DEFENSIVE
POSITIONS NEAR
MAJOR
COASTLINES.

EVEN AFTER
WE STOP KILLIAN,
THE HUMANS WILL
EVENTUALLY COME
LOOKING FOR
US.

I KNOW.
THIS IS DAMAGE
THAT CANNOT
BE UNDONE.

I HAVE
BEEN URGING THE
COUNCIL TO REACH
OUT TO THE
HUMANS.

REACH
OUT?

I FEEL THAT
PERHAPS THE TIME
HAS COME TO REVEAL
OURSELVES TO THE
REST OF THE
WORLD.

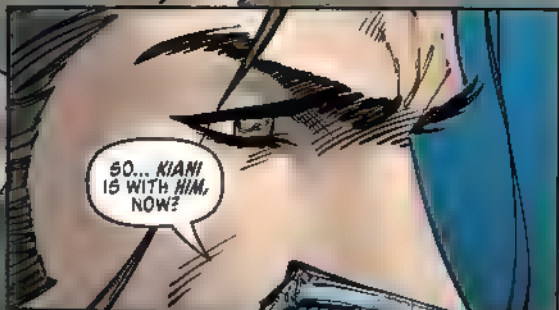
CANNON,
YOU'VE SPENT TIME
ABOVE... TIME WITH THE
HUMANS. YOU PROBABLY
UNDERSTAND THEM BETTER
THAN ANY OF US. WHAT
DO YOU THINK? ARE
THEY CAPABLE OF
SUCH...

...ACCEPTANCE?

IT'S A BOLD
MOVE, SIPHON. AND IT
COULD BE JUST THE THING
TO STOP THE STORM THAT IS
BUILDING... ESPECIALLY WITH
THE BLACK LAUNCHING
THEIR OWN ATTACKS.

BUT, IT COULD
ALSO MEAN THE
END OF OUR VERY
WAY OF LIFE.

IN OTHER
WORDS, I AM
GLAD THAT IT
IS NOT MY
DECISION.



SO... KIANI
IS WITH HIM,
NOW?

IT APPEARS
THAT WAY.

IF HE'S HER
FATHER, IT MAKES
SENSE THAT KIANI WOULD
BE DRAWN TO HIM. BUT TO
JOIN UP WITH HIM? TO
FIGHT AT HIS SIDE? TO
MURDER WITH
HIM?!!

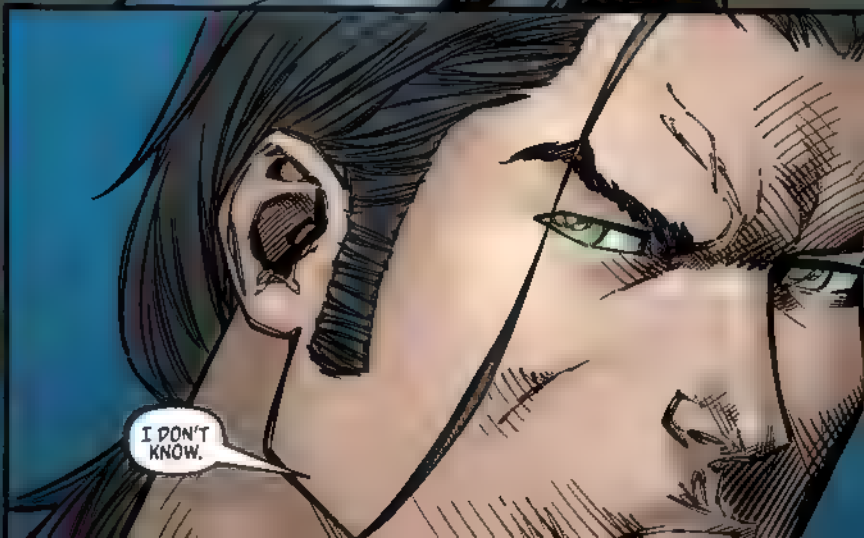
SIPHON, YOU'VE
KNOWN KIANI SINCE
FIRST SQUAD TRAINING
YEARS AGO. SHE'S ALWAYS
HAD AN INTENSE HATRED
FOR THE HUMANS. KILLIAN
IS MERELY PROVIDING A
LONG-DEPRIVED
OUTLET.



SO, WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO?

ABOUT
KIANI?

ABOUT
ALL OF
IT.



I DON'T
KNOW.

AREN'T THE
OTHERS MEETING
US HERE FOR OUR
JOURNEY BACK?

WE ARE
NOT DONE YET,
CASQUE.

THE HUMANS
MAY BE SLOW, RANGER,
BUT EVEN THEY WILL HAVE
LEARNED FROM THIS
LESSON.

THIS IS NO
LESSON. THAT
TIME HAS PASSED.
WE DID NOT COME
TO THE SURFACE
TO GET THEIR

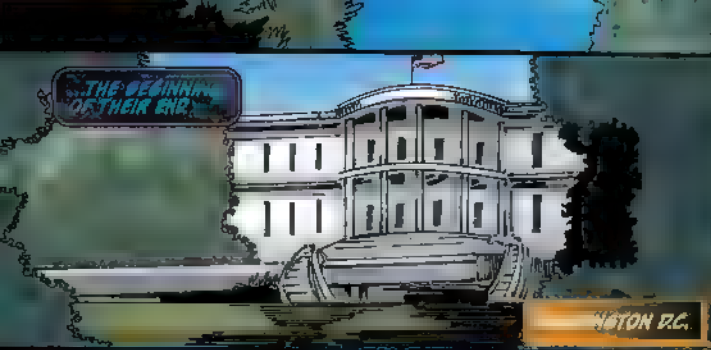
WE CAME
TO RESTORE
BALANCE TO
THE WORLD.

THEY MUST KNOW WHERE
THEY RESIDE. THEY MUST
KNOW THE TRUE POWER
OF THIS PLANET.

WATER
IS LIFE.

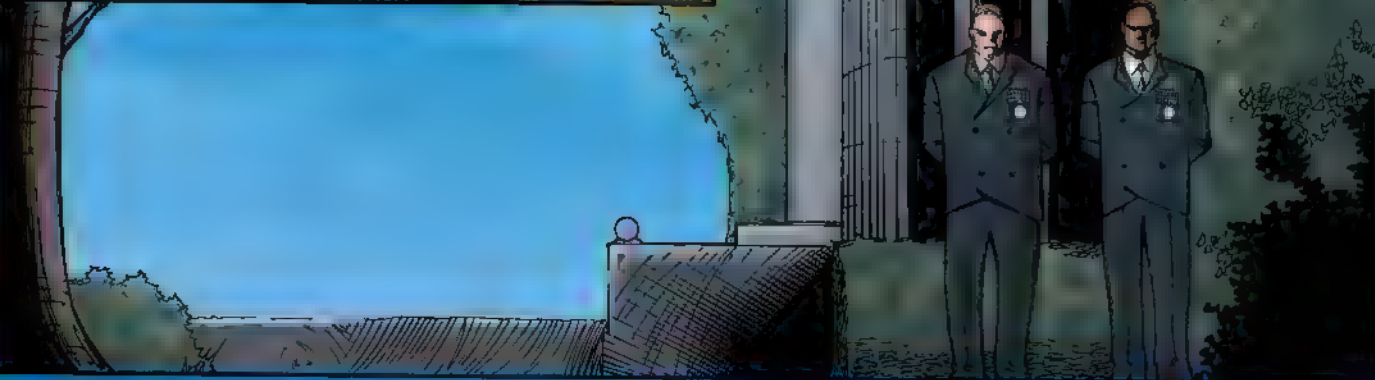
THE COAST.

THIS IS THE
BEGINNING.



REPORTS PUT THE SIZE OF THE MASS OVER MIAMI AT ALMOST TWICE THE SIZE OF THE ONE THAT DROPPED ON R.I.O.

GOOD GOD.



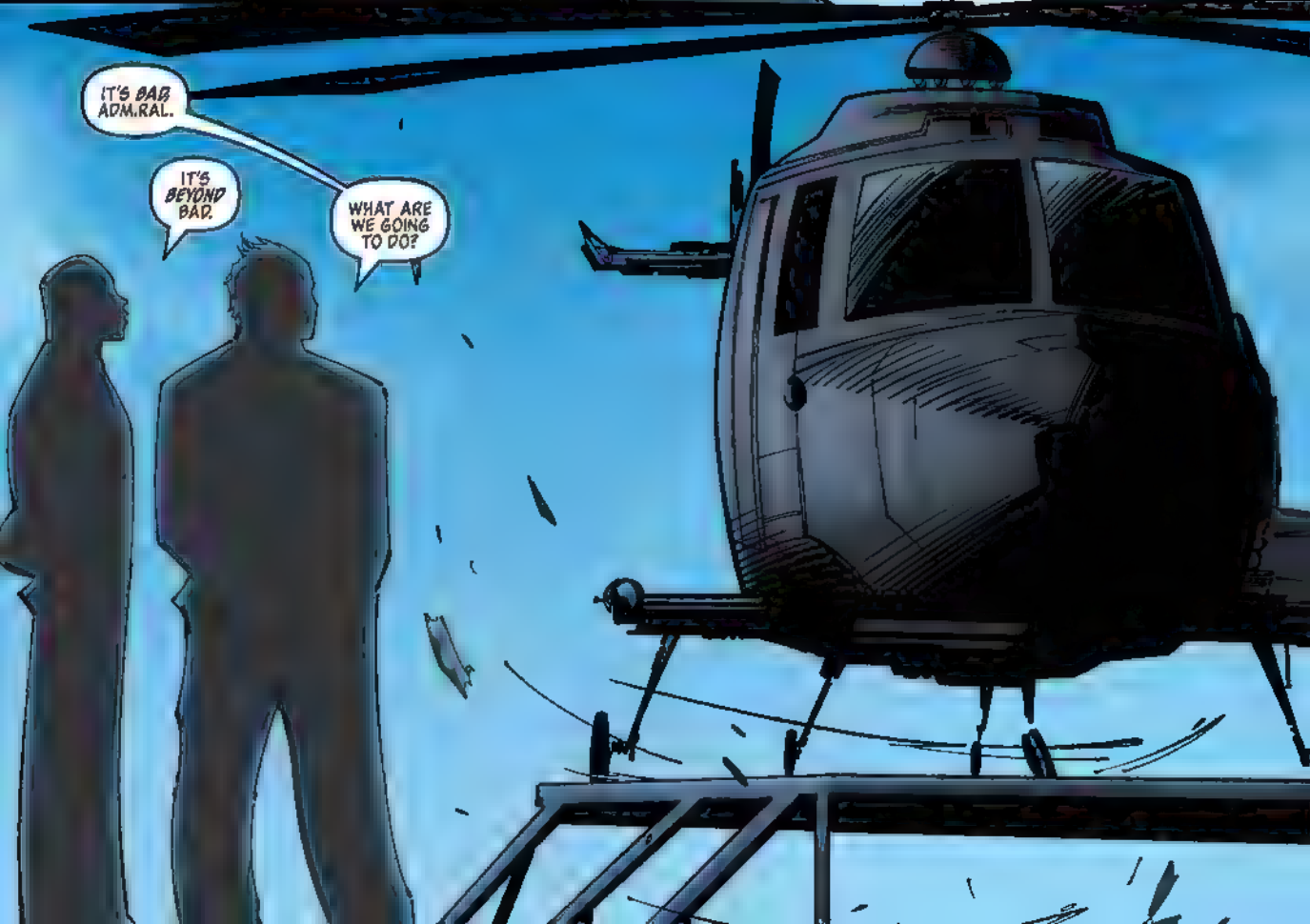
A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN ISSUED. THE NATIONAL GUARD IS ALREADY CONDUCTING MANDATORY EVACUATIONS, BUT THEY ESTIMATE ONLY 20% OF THE POPULATION WILL BE CLEAR OF THE STRIKE ZONE IN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.



IT'S BAD ADMIRAL.

IT'S BEYOND BAD.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?





TO BE CONTINUED...

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#5
OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



ASPEN
Vol. 3

#5
OF 10
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER
FATHOM™

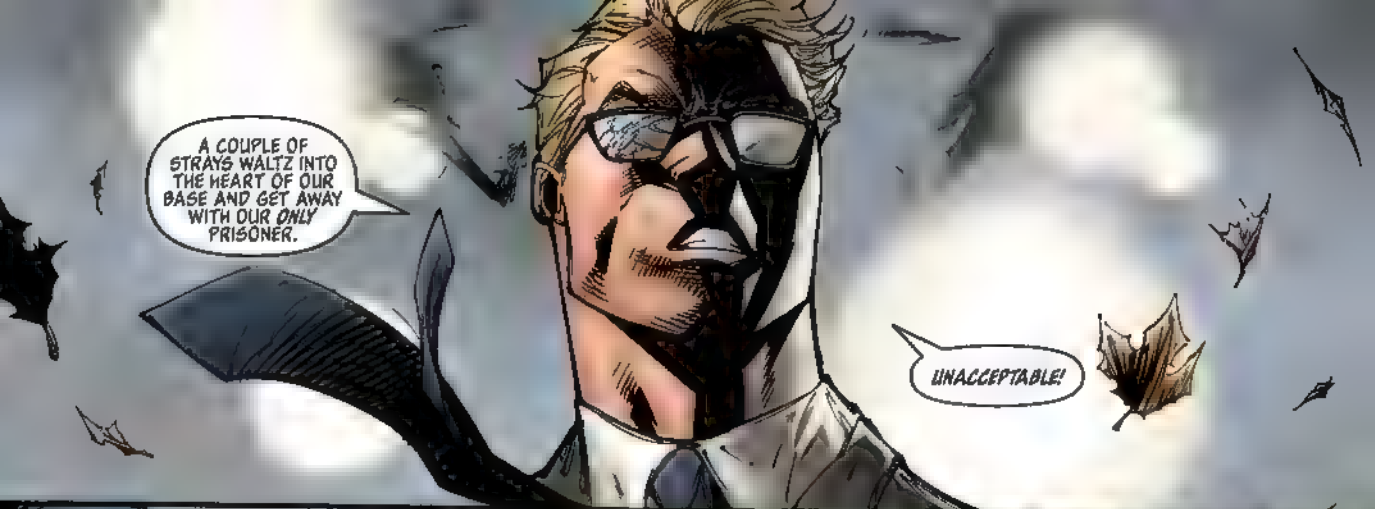


MT

FATHOM

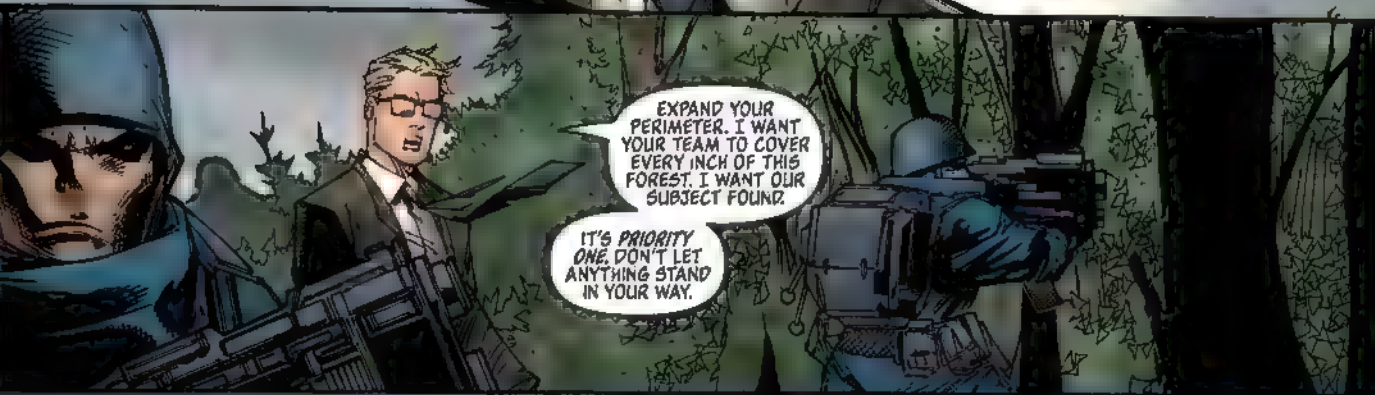
JOSH REED
letters

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL 1-800-COMICBOOK



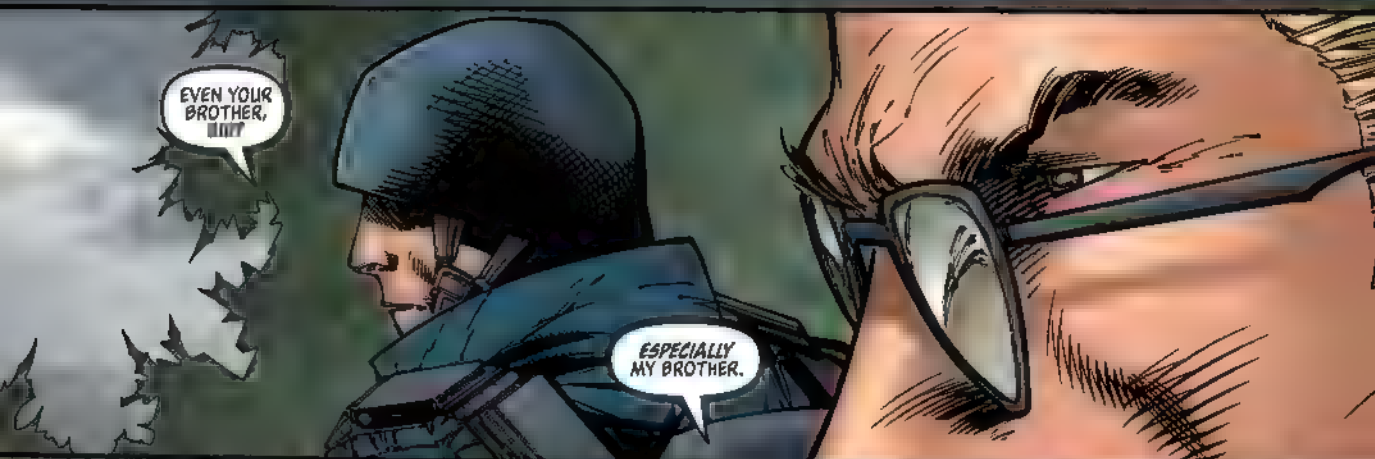
A COUPLE OF STRAYS WALTZ INTO THE HEART OF OUR BASE AND GET AWAY WITH OUR ONLY PRISONER.

UNACCEPTABLE!



EXPAND YOUR PERIMETER. I WANT YOUR TEAM TO COVER EVERY INCH OF THIS FOREST. I WANT OUR SUBJECT FOUND.

IT'S PRIORITY ONE, DON'T LET ANYTHING STAND IN YOUR WAY.



EVEN YOUR BROTHER, SIR?

ESPECIALLY MY BROTHER.



MOVEMENT! THREE O'CLOCK!

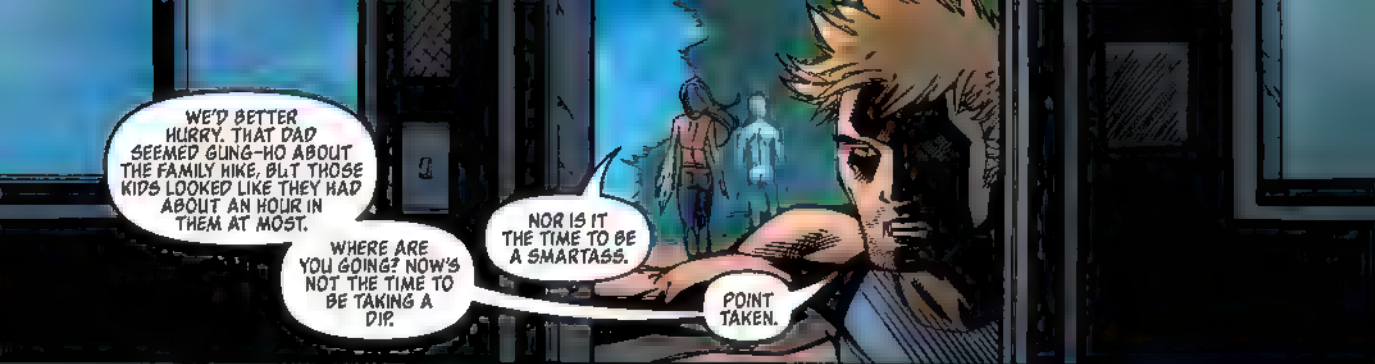
SIR, TAKE COVER!

SAVE IT.



THEY'RE
GONE.





WE'D BETTER HURRY. THAT DAD SEEMED GUNG-HO ABOUT THE FAMILY HIKE, BUT THOSE KIDS LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD ABOUT AN HOUR IN THEM AT MOST.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE TAKING A DIP.

NOR IS IT THE TIME TO BE A SMARTASS.

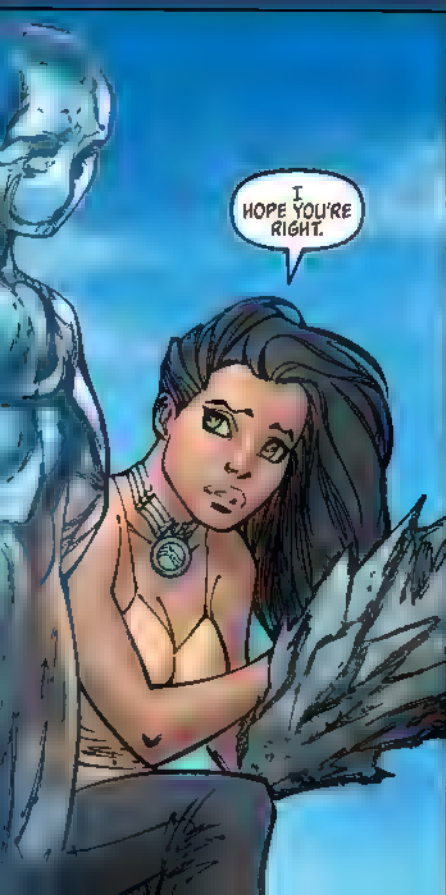
POINT TAKEN.



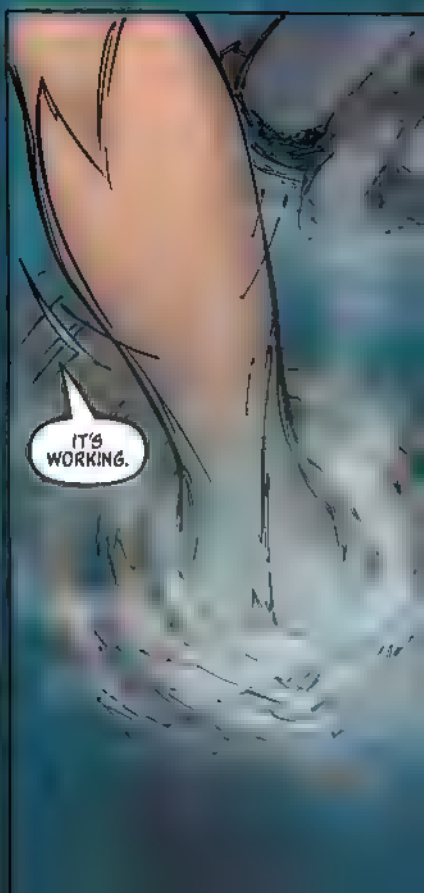
WHATEVER THAT GUN FIRED... IT TOTALLY SCREWED ME UP. LOOK AT MY ARM.

IT'S BEEN SATURATED WITH SEDIMENT MINERALS, LOCKED INTO SOLID FORM.

IMMERSING IT IN THE WATER SHOULD CORRECT THE LEVELS.



I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.



IT'S WORKING.



MUCH BETTER.
IT FELT CREEPY...
LIKE I WAS TURNING
TO STONE OR
SOMETHING.

YOU
NEEDN'T
DESCRIBE IT
TO ME. I
KNOW HOW
IT FEELS.

THEY USED
ME FOR LOTS OF
EXPERIMENTS DURING MY
CAPTIVITY... TESTING EVERY
POSSIBLE WEAKNESS.
BELIEVE ME, IF I COULD
HAVE KILLED MYSELF, I
WOULD HAVE.

I CAN'T EVEN
BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN
LIKE FOR YOU. I'M SO
SORRY, FINN.

YOU DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO BE SORRY
FOR. IN FACT, I NEVER HAD
A CHANCE TO THANK YOU
FOR GETTING ME OUT OF
THAT PRISON.

FINN, YOU'RE
MY BROTHER. YOU
DON'T HAVE TO SAY
THANK YOU. NOT
EVER.



ASPEN!
YOU'D BETTER
SEE THIS.

I THINK
YOUR DAD IS
UP TO SOME
OF HIS OLD
TRICKS.



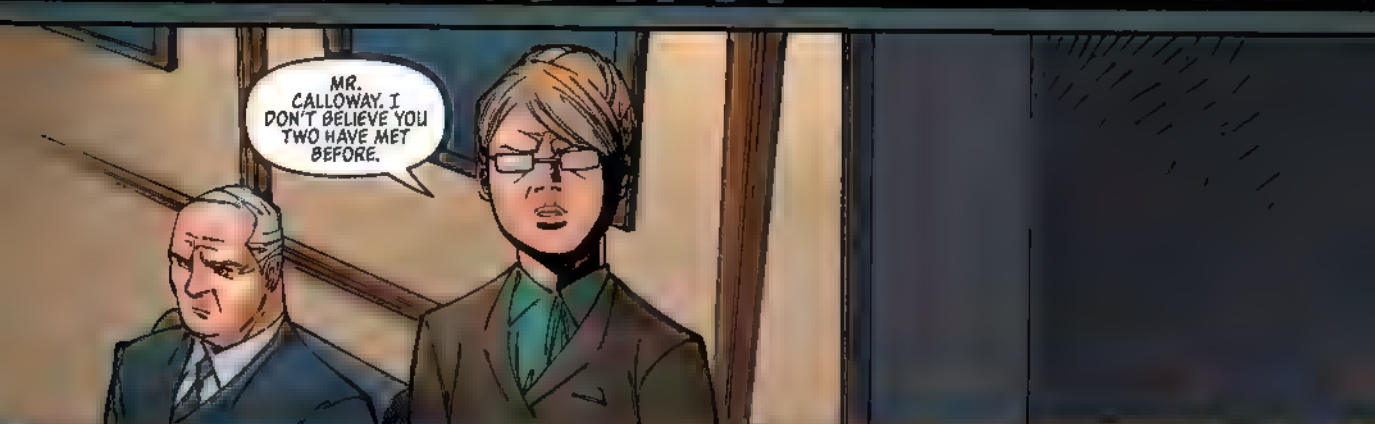
OUR FATHER?
HE'S ALIVE?

NO, NOT
EXACTLY. WHAT I
MEAN IS...

... WE HAVE A
LOT TO CATCH
UP ON.



SORRY TO KEEP
YOU WAITING, MADAME
SECRETARY. I JUST LEARNED
OF THIS MEETING AND HAVE
BEEN HANDLING THE
RECENT SECURITY
BREACH.



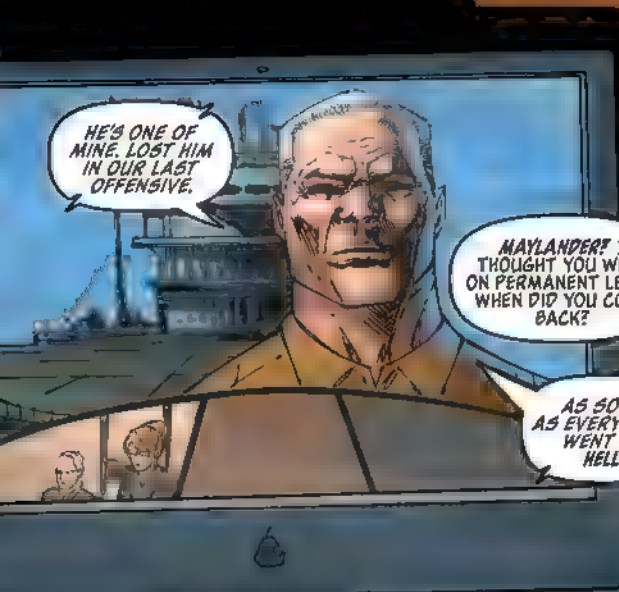
MR.
CALLOWAY. I
DON'T BELIEVE YOU
TWO HAVE MET
BEFORE.



MR. PRESIDENT,
IT'S AN HONOR,
SIR.

GOOD TO
MEET YOU, CHRIS.
SEEMS WE'VE GOT
OURSELVES QUITE A
SITUATION.

YES, SIR. WE
HAVEN'T LOCATED THE
ESCAPED PRISONER,
BUT WE DID RECOVER A
TIGERSHARK NAMED
ANDERSON.



HE'S ONE OF
MINE. LOST HIM
IN OUR LAST
OFFENSIVE.

MAYLANDER? I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
ON PERMANENT LEAVE.
WHEN DID YOU COME
BACK?

AS SOON
AS EVERYTHING
WENT TO
HELL.

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR UNIFORM,
CALLOWAY?



IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A CIVILIAN SHOULD HEAD UP THE OPERATION AFTER THE RECENT SETBACKS. MR. CALLOWAY VOLUNTEERED TO LEAVE THE NAVY IN ORDER TO ASSIST US.

YOU ALWAYS WERE ABLE TO SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, CHRIS.

I JUST WANTED TO BE PART OF THIS, MAYLANDER.

OKAY, LET'S GET TO THE TASK AT HAND, GENTLEMEN.

EVAC IS STILL UNDERWAY IN FLORIDA. WE'VE ALSO COMMANDEERED SEVERAL COMMERCIAL VESSELS TO ASSIST WITH THE FLORIDA KEYS. IN THE LAST 24 HOURS, WE EXCEEDED ESTIMATES, BUT WE'RE STILL ONLY AT 25%.

AND WHAT ABOUT OFFENSE?

WE KEPT IT QUIET LAST TIME... COVERT. BUT NOW, IT'S GOING TO BE OUT IN THE OPEN. I'LL HIT THEM WITH EVERYTHING THE NAVY'S GOT.

AND WHAT ABOUT SUPPORT FROM THE OTHER ARMED FORCES?

BEST TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THIS FOR NOW. THEY'LL BE NEEDED ELSEWHERE IF THIS TURNS BAD...

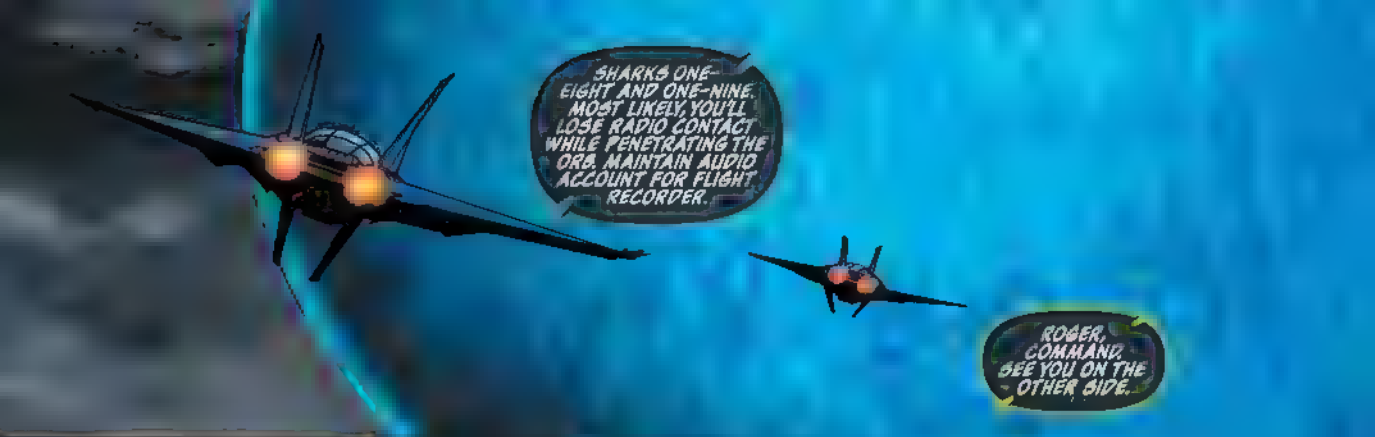
...WHICH IT PROBABLY WILL.

ADMIRAL, JUST HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

THE SAME WAY WE'D FIGHT ANY ENEMY, MR. PRESIDENT.



YOU JUST NEED
TO KNOW WHERE
TO AIM.



SHARKS ONE-EIGHT AND ONE-NINE, MOST LIKELY, YOU'LL LOSE RADIO CONTACT WHILE PENETRATING THE ORB. MAINTAIN AUDIO ACCOUNT FOR FLIGHT RECORDER.

ROGER, COMMAND. SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.



YOU READY, DIAMONDBACK?

ROGER THAT. LET'S DO THIS.



ENTERED MASS. AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, IT'S JUST WHAT IT SEEMS TO BE... A GIANT FLOATING BALL OF WATER.

EXPERIENCING INTERFERENCE. UNABLE TO GET ACCURATE READINGS.

RELYING SOLELY ON VISUALS.



NO SIGN OF HOSTILES WITHIN THE ORB.

I SEE LIGHT UP AHEAD. MIGHT BE JUST ON THE FAR SIDE OF THIS WATER MOON.







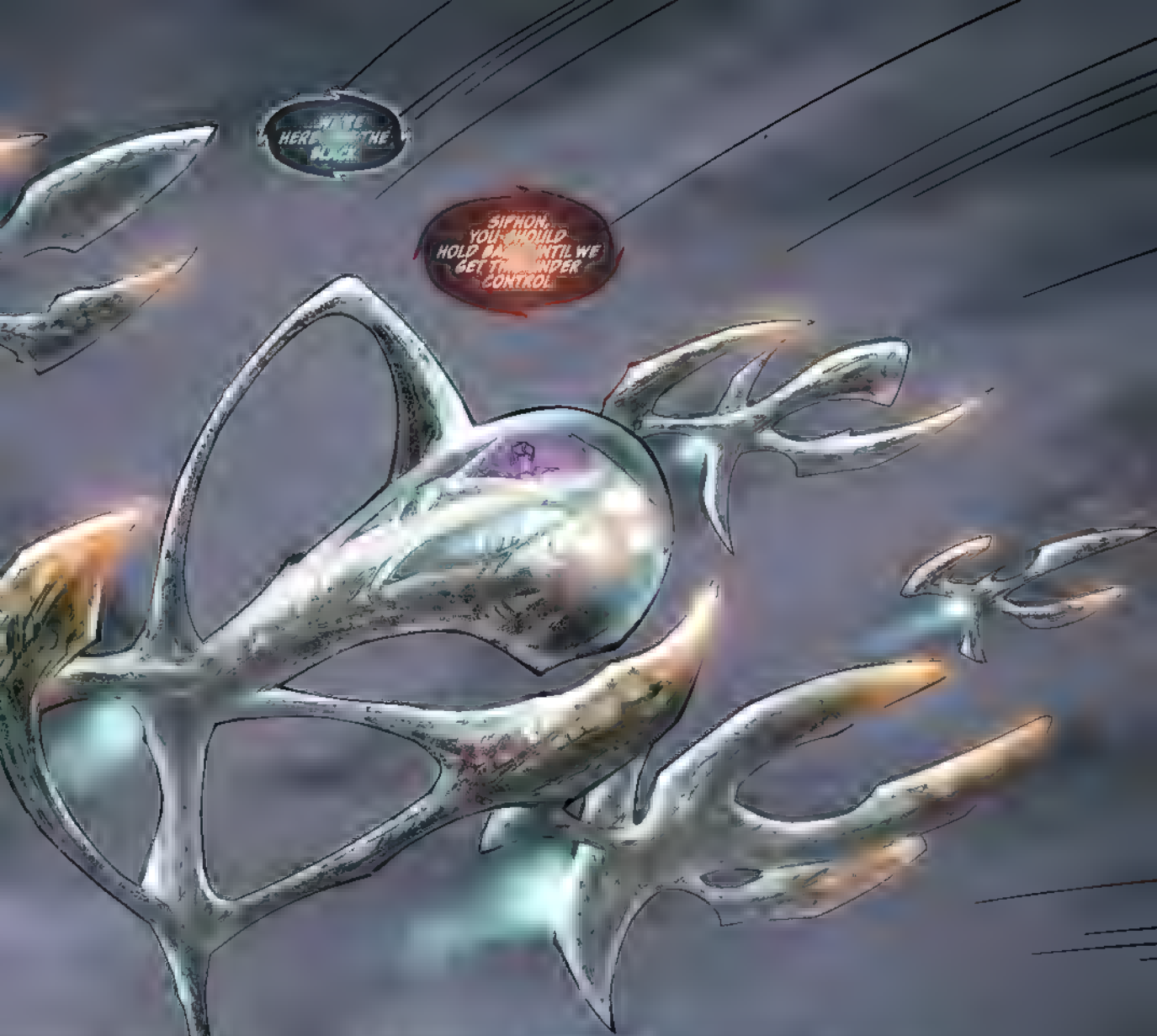
LAUNCH
RESCUE.

PULL BACK
VIKINGS FOUR,
FIVE, AND SIX FOR
SUPPORT.

ADMIRAL,
WE'VE GOT INCOMING...
MULTIPLE TARGETS. EIGHT
MILES OUT. SPEED
SEVENTY KNOTS.

LAUNCH
REMAINING
FIGHTERS TO
INTERCEPT.

ALL FIGHTERS,
AVOID HUMAN
AIRCRAFT. DO NOT FIRE
ON THEM. REMEMBER,
WE'RE NOT HERE FOR
THE HUMANS.



WE
HERE
THE
BLACK

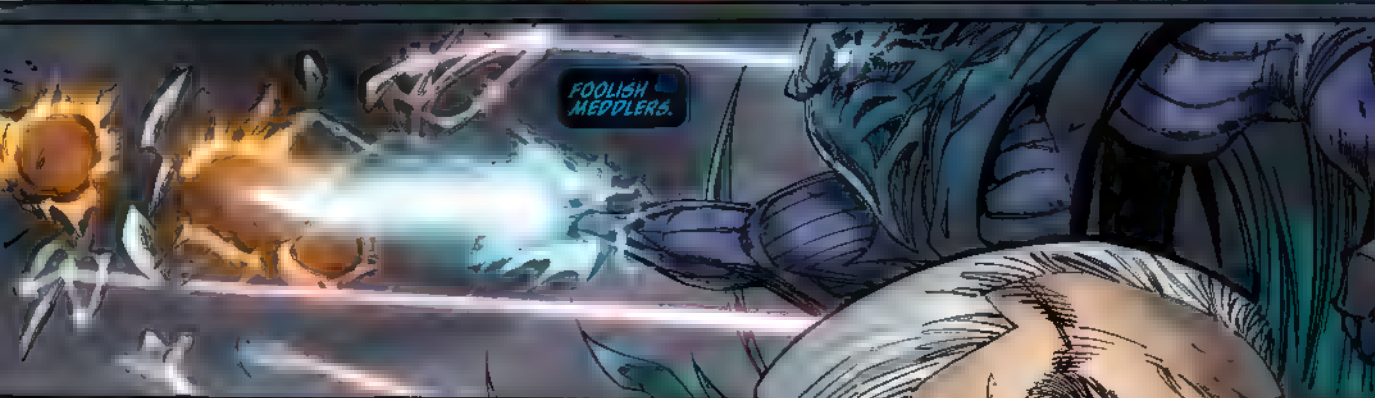
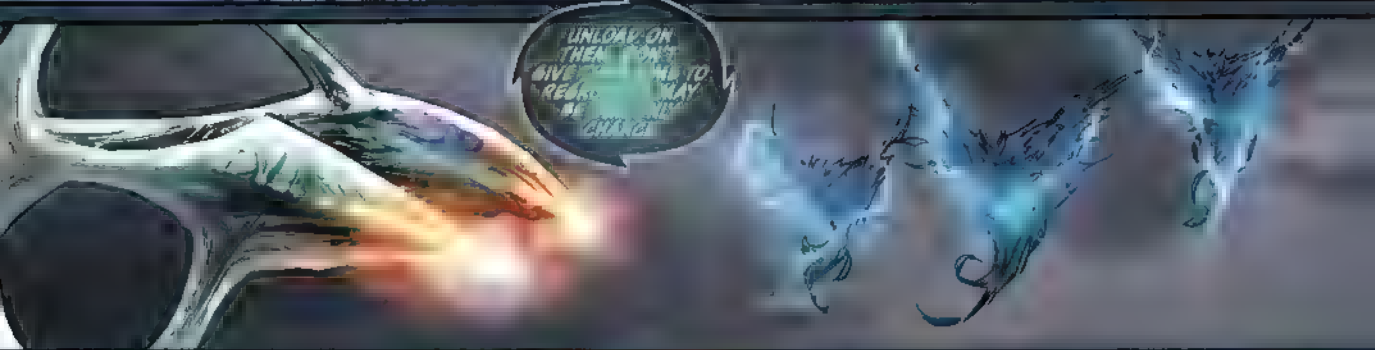
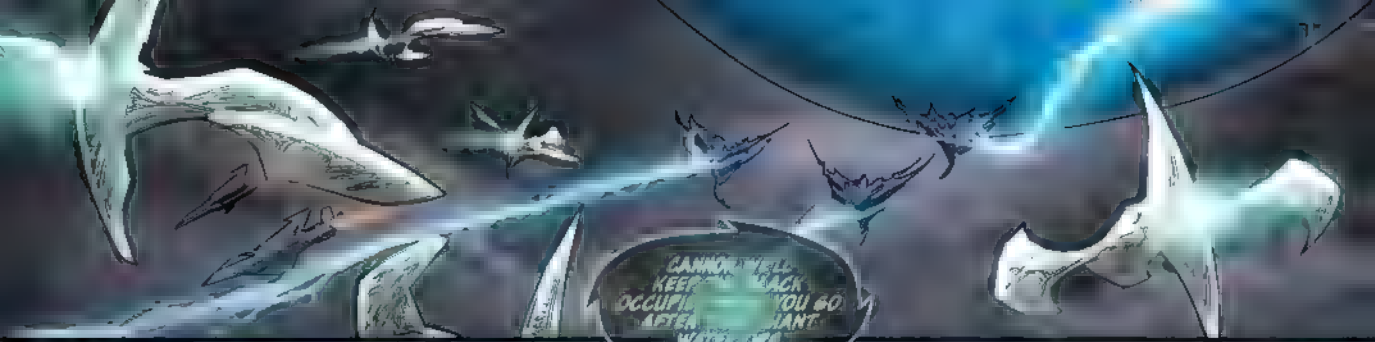
SIPHON.
YOU SHOULD
HOLD BACK UNTIL WE
GET THE UNDER
CONTROL

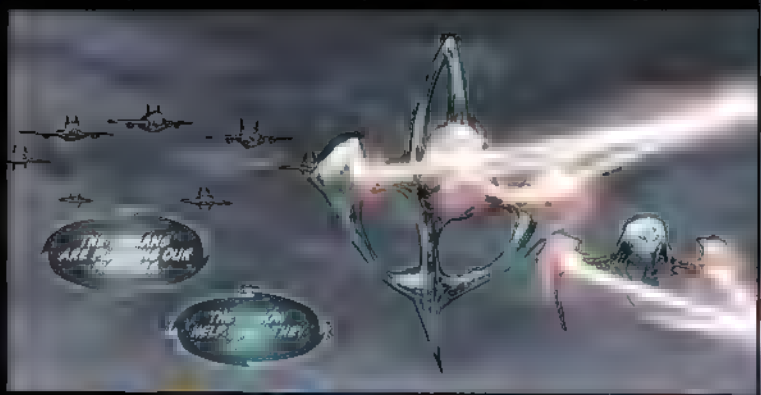


WITH ALL
DUE RESPECT, HIGH
COUNCIL, THEY
CAN'T DO YOUR
ASS CAN.

CANNON, IF I
DIDN'T WATER TO THE
ENTIRE... WHEN I
MADE... SION TO
INTERV... AGAINST THE
BLACK, WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK I'M GOING TO
LISTEN TO YOU?

THIS IS
VIKING-NINE. NEW
CONTACTS ARE NOT
HOT, SIR. THEY'RE NOT
RETURNING FIRE.
JUST A FLYBY.





WHO COULD HAVE IMAGINED A DAY WHEN I WOULD STAND AGAINST OUR VERY HERITAGE. BUT THIS IS NOT THE MYTHIC BATTLE.



YOU ATTACK US? YOU CHOOSE TO SIDE WITH THESE... HUMANS? WE ARE YOUR BROTHERS, AND YET YOUR EVERY DECISION MOVES YOU FURTHER AWAY FROM OUR BOND.

DO TURN FROM YOUR BROTHERS. YOU CLOUD YOUR MINDS AND BLIND YOUR SPIRITS. LOOK AT YOU, PLAYING ABOUT IN SUCH CONTRACTIONS, NOT LOCKED WITHIN YOUR PETTY SHIMS.

THE BLACK WERE CONSIDERED GODS WHEN I WAS A BOY. WE ALL LEARNED OF THEIR ROLES AS OUR GODS. WE WERE BEFORE WE WERE HUMANS. AND IT WASN'T.

THE COUNCIL WANTED TO STAY OUT OF THIS WAR. ALTOGETHER BUT BELIEVED IN THE ACTION. THE BLACK COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING.

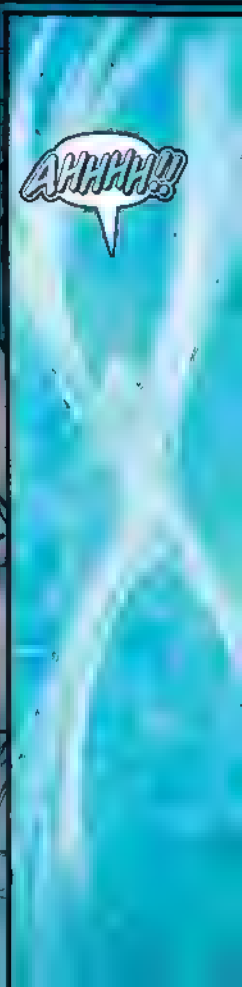
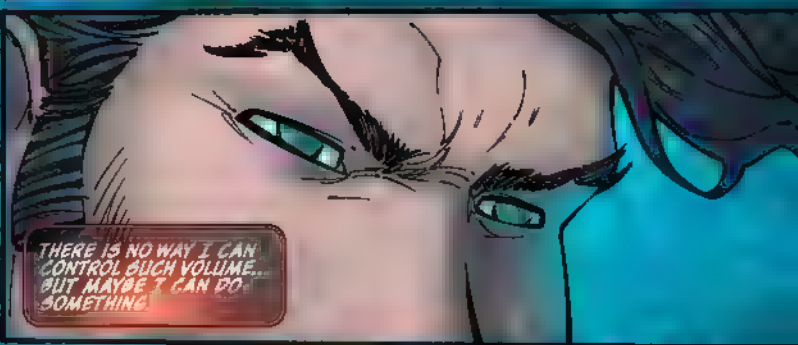
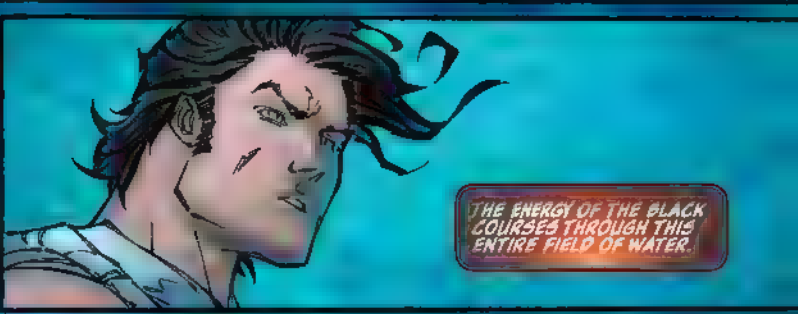
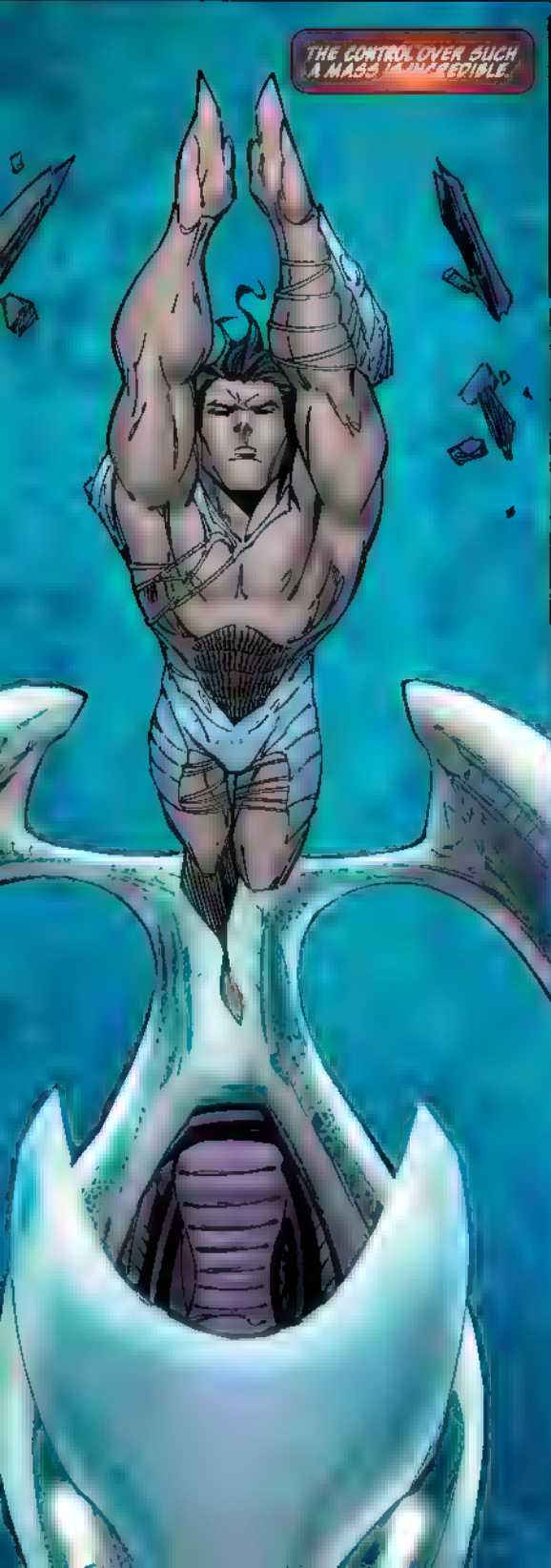
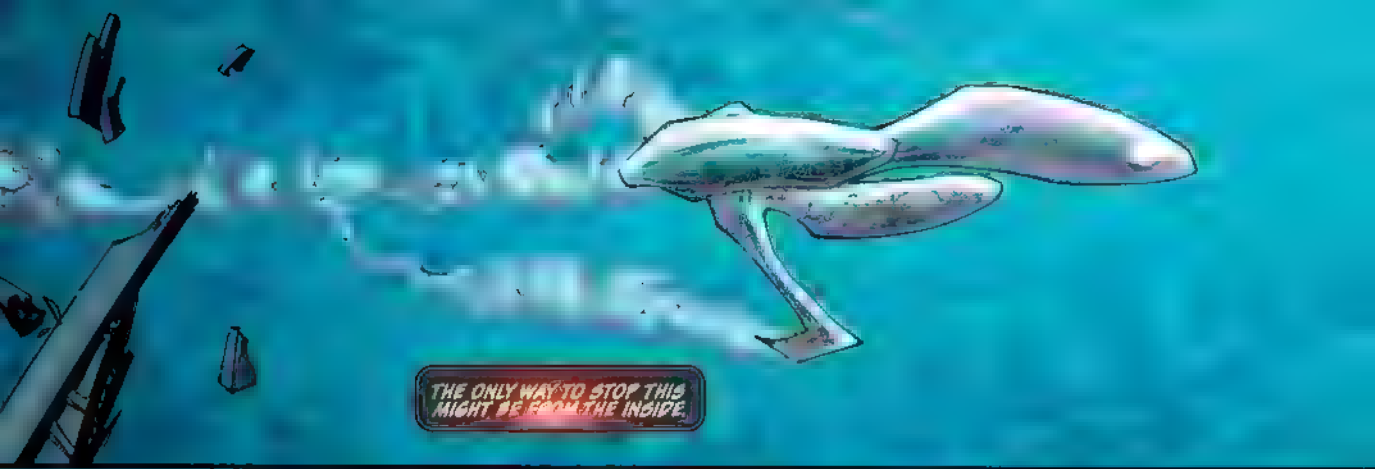
SUBSTANCE IS POINTLESS.

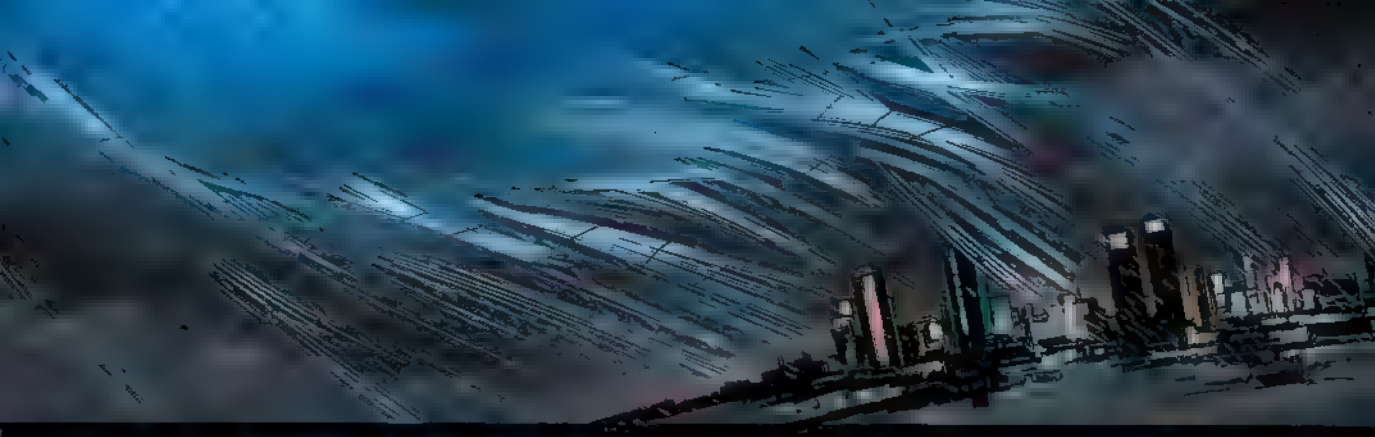
YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN THE HUMANS.



YOU ARE
NOTHING.

PERHAPS YOU
DESERVE THE
SAME FATE.





ADMIRAL,
THIS IS IT. IT'S...
DROPPING.

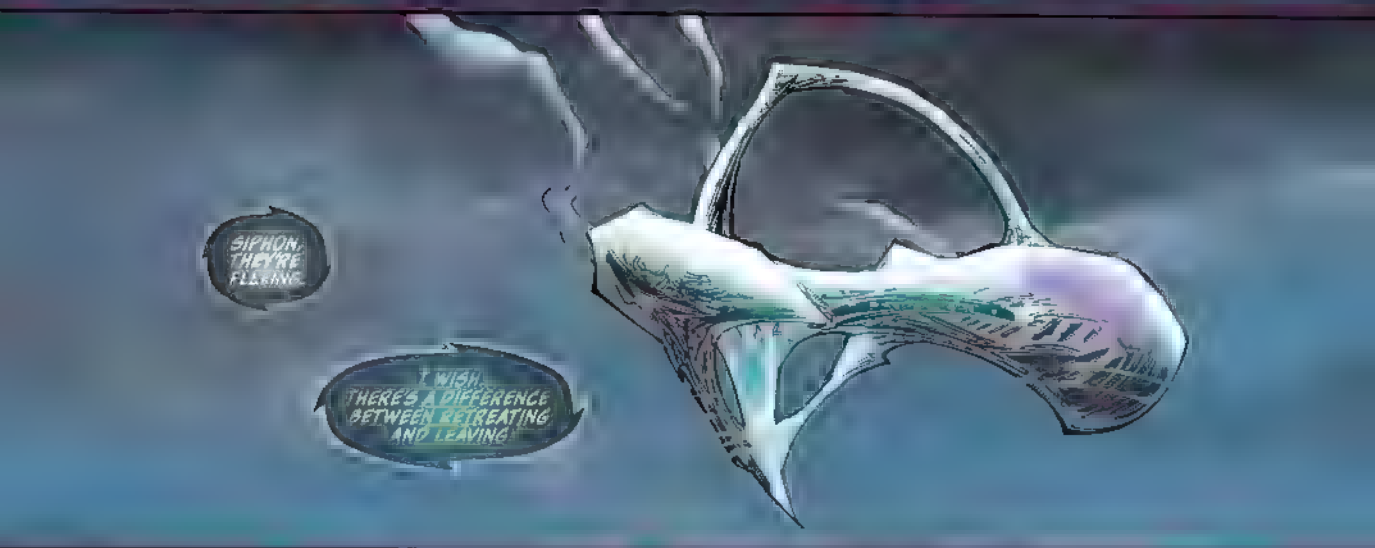


NO. IT'S
FALLING, BUT
NOTHING LIKE IN RIO.
NOWHERE NEAR AS
DESTRUCTIVE.

I'LL BE A
SON-OF-A-BITCH.
THEY SAVED
US.



CANNON DID IT!
THE BLACKS' POWER
IS DISSIPATING.



SIPHON,
THEY'RE
FLEEING.

I WISH
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN RETREATING
AND LEAVING.



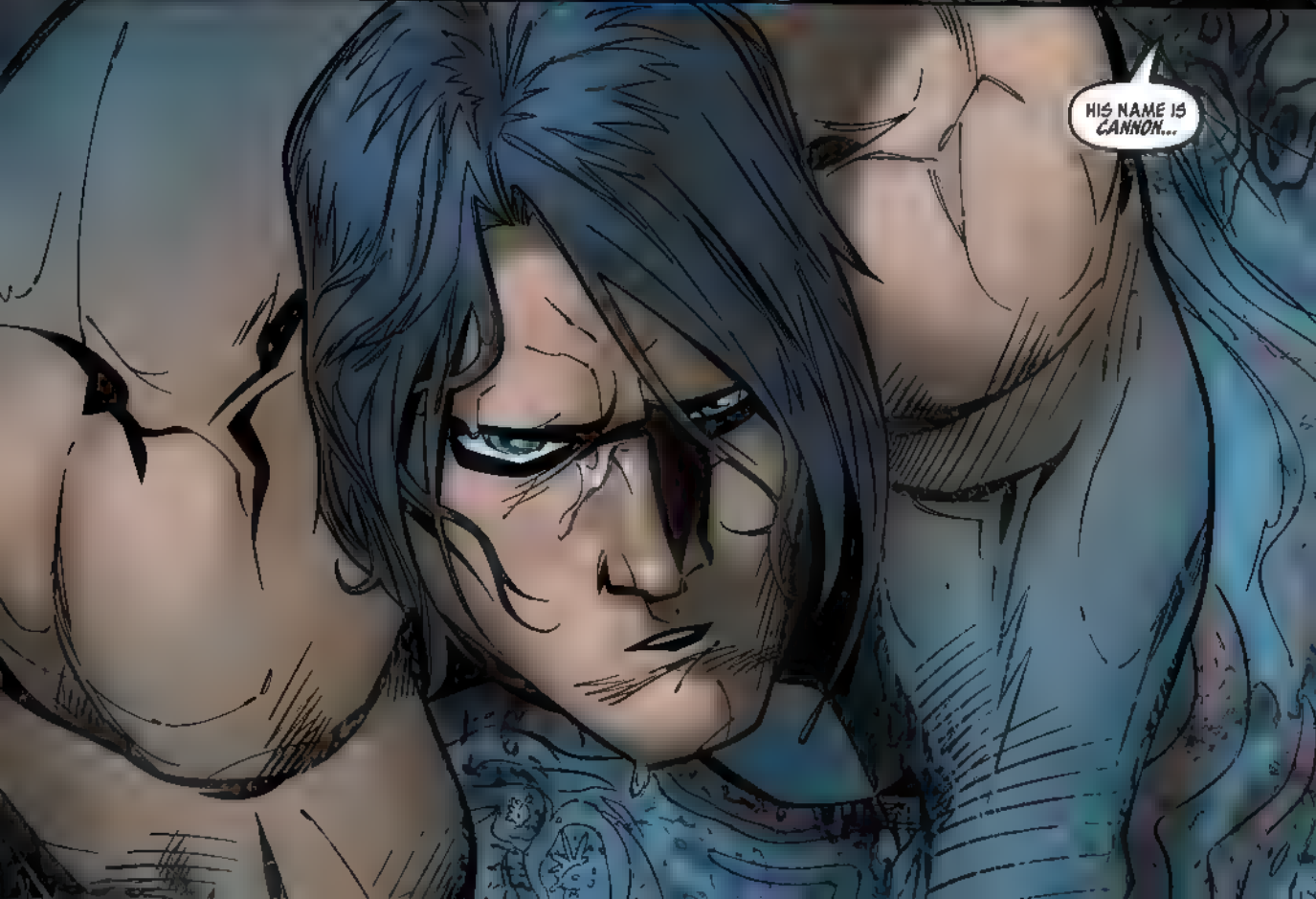
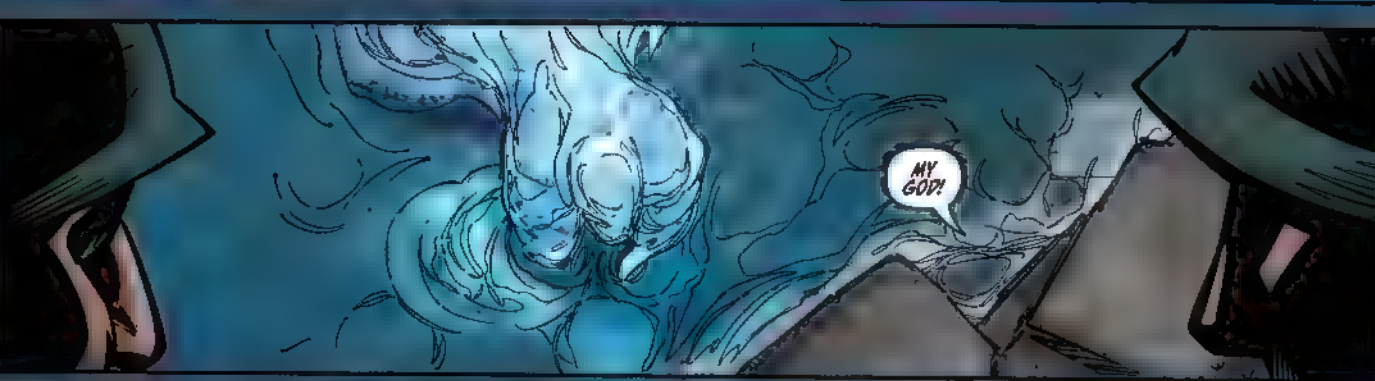
SOMETHING
TELLS ME THAT THE
BLACKS ARE JUST
MOVING ON.



WE DIDN'T
WIN, BUT WE
STAYED.



THANKS TO
CANNON.



...AND
MY NAME IS
SIPHON. WE ARE
THE BLUE.

To Be Continued...

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#6
OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



ASPEN
Vol. 3

#6
OF 10
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM



WINTER THREE
Issue SIX of Ten

FATHOM

J.T. KRUL
story

ALÉ GARZA
pencils

SAL REGLA
inks

JOHN STARR
colors

JOSH REED
letters

DRAWN BY: MICHAEL TURNER, SYMPHONY MATSON, VINCE HERMANN, J.T. KRUL, JOSH REED, MARK ROSE, PETER STRONOWSKI, JAMES ZIDIG, AND FRANK MAREK

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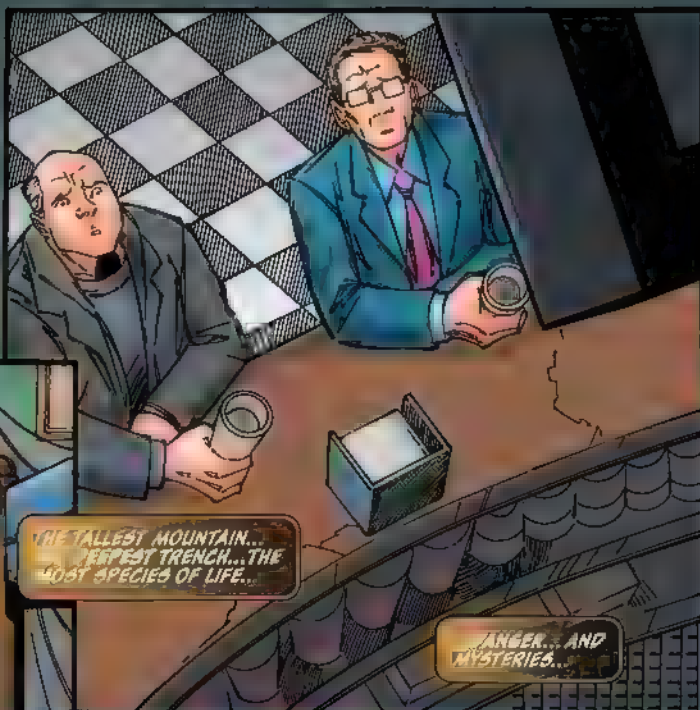
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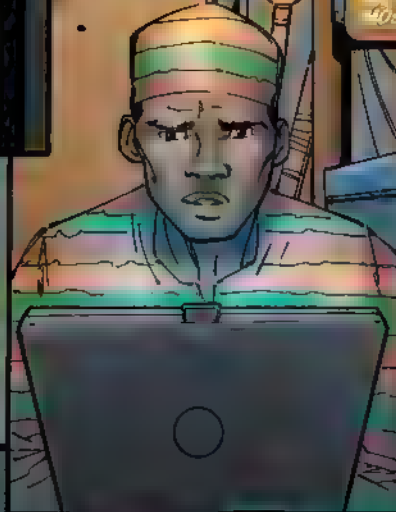
THE NAME FOR
A PLACE THAT HAS
OVER TWO-THIRDS
OF ITS SURFACE
COVERED WITH
OCEANS, LAKES,
AND RIVERS.

PLANET "WATER"
WOULD BE MORE
ACCURATE.



THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN...
THE DEEPEST TRENCH...THE
MOST SPECIES OF LIFE...

DANGER... AND
MYSTERIES...



IN MAN'S HASTE
TO LOOK TOWARD
THE STARS FOR
ANSWERS...

BENEATH
THE SURFACE.



GUIDANCE...

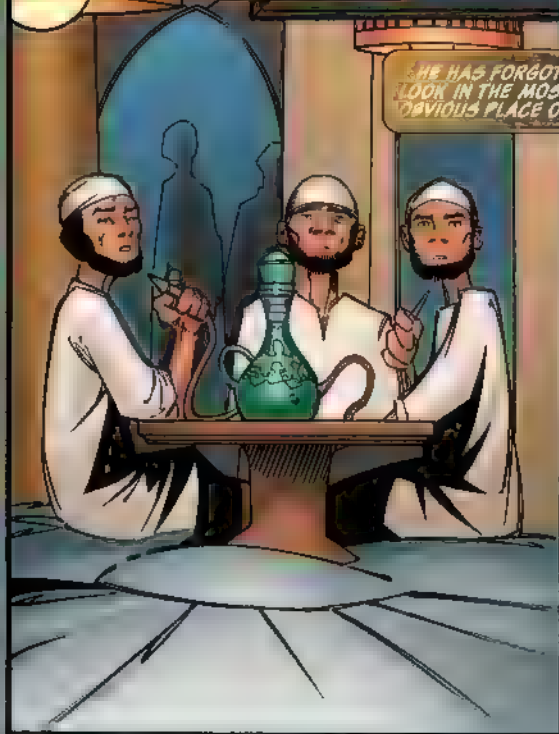
...OR JUST FOR
THE TRUE REASON
WE'RE HERE ON
THIS PLANET...

SHE HAS FORGOTTEN TO
LOOK IN THE MOST
OBVIOUS PLACE OF ALL...

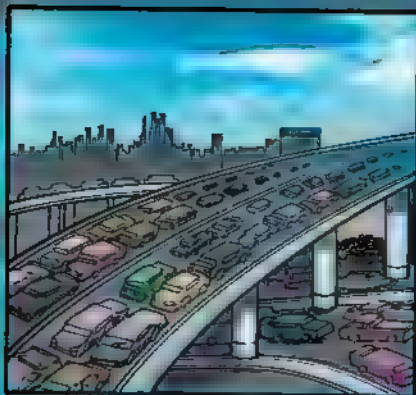


HEATH HIS
FEET.

THE
WORLD
BELOW.



A WORLD
WITHIN A
WORLD.



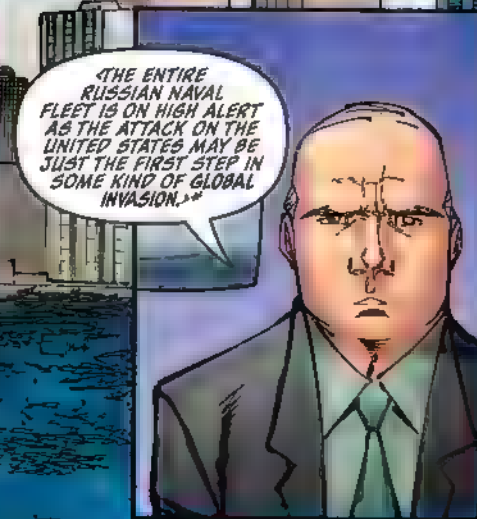
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE FLEEING THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DOING ANYTHING THEY CAN TO GET AWAY FROM THE AREA... BECAUSE NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.



THE CONFLICT ALONG THE AMERICAN COAST IS SENDING SHOCKWAVES ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE. IN A WORD, THE FOOTAGE SUGGESTS SOMETHING TRULY "ALIEN."



YOU CAN SEE HOW THE WATER ALMOST ATTACHES ITSELF TO THE BEING'S SKIN, COVERING IT EVEN AS IT EMERGES FROM THE WATER. SIMPLY FASCINATING.



THE ENTIRE RUSSIAN NAVAL FLEET IS ON HIGH ALERT AS THE ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES MAY BE JUST THE FIRST STEP IN SOME KIND OF GLOBAL INVASION.

TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN



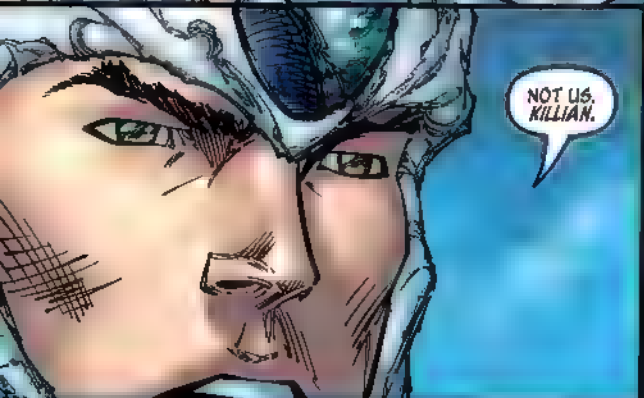
AT JOURNALISM SCHOOL, THEY HARP ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REMAINING OBJECTIVE, BUT NONE OF MY PROFESSORS COULD HAVE IMAGINED A DAY LIKE TODAY. I JUST... I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OTHER THAN THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE-- NOT ANYMORE.



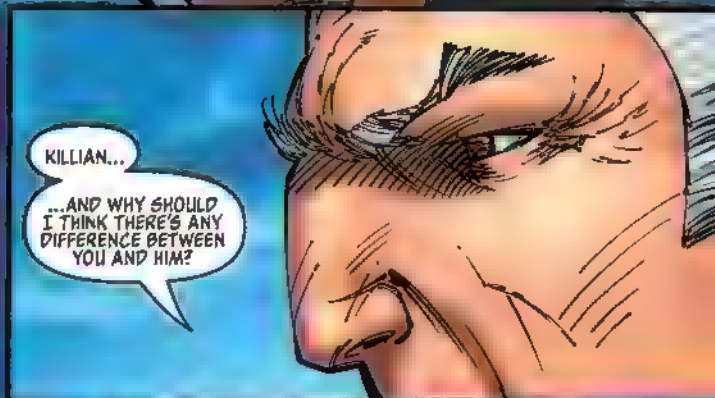
IS THIS THE
PART WHERE YOU
SURRENDER?

SURRENDER?
WE CAME TO *YOUR* AID.
WE SAVED *YOUR* CITY
FROM THE BLACK. *THEY*
WERE THE ONES
RESPONSIBLE.

NOT FOR
THE ATTACKS ON
PEARL HARBOR AND
SAN DIEGO. THAT
WAS ALL YOU.



NOT US,
KILLIAN.



KILLIAN...

...AND WHY SHOULD
I THINK THERE'S ANY
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
YOU AND HIM?



COMMON
SENSE, ADMIRAL.
WE ARE HERE,
AREN'T WE?

KILLIAN'S A
GOOD MANIPULATOR.
MAYBE YOU ARE JUST HIS
ERRAND BOY, OFFERING A
LITTLE MISDIRECTION.



KILLIAN IS
IN EXILE. HE DOES
NOT REPRESENT
THE BLUE.

I DO.

I AM SIPHON,
HIGH COUNSELOR OF
MURIA, CAPITAL CITY OF
THE BLUE. THE CITY
YOU ATTACKED



THIS WAR
HAS GONE ON LONG
ENOUGH. I AM HERE
TO *END* IT.

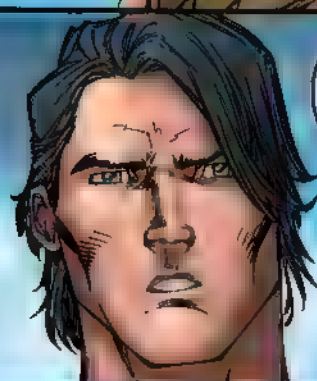


AND WHAT
MAKES YOU THINK
I'M IN ANY MOOD
TO NEGOTIATE WITH YOU?
REGARDLESS OF WHAT
YOU JUST DID ON THE
BATTLEFIELD.



YOUR MOOD IS NOT
MY CONCERN, AND I HAVE
NO INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING
WITH A MAN OF WAR. YOU
COMMAND THE SOLDIERS OF
BUT ONE NATION. I
REPRESENT AN *ENTIRE*
PEOPLE.

I WISH TO
COMMUNICATE
DIRECTLY WITH
YOUR LEADERS--
YOUR PRESIDENTS,
PRIME MINISTERS,
AND OTHER
DIGNITARIES
ACROSS
THE GLOBE.



MOST OF
THOSE LEADERS ARE
ONLY NOW LEARNING OF
YOUR EXISTENCE. THEY
WILL BE CAUTIOUS OF
A SIT DOWN.

TRUE.



BUT THEY
SHOULD BE MORE
CONCERNED WITH THE
BLACK. WE DID NOT DEFEAT
THEM. THEY WILL *ATTACK*
AGAIN. YOU KNOW THIS,
MAYLANDER.



AND YOU
KNOW THAT YOU
CANNOT BEAT
THEM ALONE.

THIS IS THE DEFINITION OF UNPRECEDENTED. IT'S AS THOUGH A NEW SUPERPOWER HAS CROPPED UP VIRTUALLY OVERNIGHT. GIVEN THEIR AGGRESSIVE ATTACKS ON AMERICAN SOIL, I AM INCLINED TO DECLARE WAR, BUT I FEAR WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE WORLD.

WE NEED TIME, BUT WE DON'T HAVE IT. FOOTAGE OF THE BLUE IS EVERYWHERE ON TELEVISION AND THE INTERNET. THE PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE CONTROL. THE ENTIRE SITUATION IS A POWDER KEG. THEY NEED REASSURANCE.

THIS HIGH COUNSELOR OF THEIRS DID COME TO YOUR AID THOUGH, PRESIDENT CARTWRIGHT. REGARDLESS OF PREVIOUS INCIDENTS, THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

«CAN WE REALLY AFFORD TO HAVE ANOTHER SUPERPOWER IN THE WORLD- ONE WHOSE STRENGTH MAY EXCEED US ALL? THE TRUTH IS WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEM.»

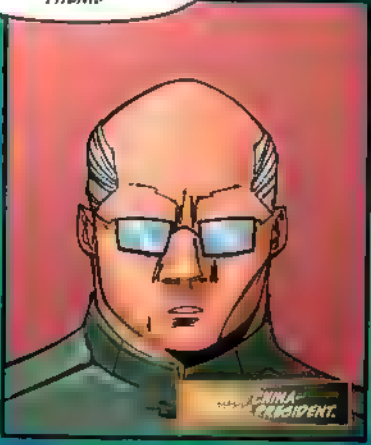
«SINCE THE ATTACK, I HAVE BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS THAT DETAIL PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH THESE BEINGS FROM THE WATER. THEY WERE DEEMED BIOLOGICAL ANOMALIES. IT WAS NEVER IMAGINED THAT THEY HAD AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION DOWN THERE.»

«WE CANNOT SHOW WEAKNESS. IF WE ATTACK, WE MUST DO IT SWIFTLY, PRESENTING A UNIFIED FRONT.»

WITHIN ANY CONFLICT, THERE IS AN EBB AND FLOW. AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WE MUST REACH OUT TO THE HAND THAT HAS BEEN OFFERED. ANY CHANCE TO AVOID FURTHER BLOODSHED SHOULD BE EXPLORED FULLY. I SAY WE ACCEPT SIPHON'S REQUEST.

«THESE BLUE MAY HAVE ATTACKED, BUT THIS OTHER THREAT, THE ONES THEY DESCRIBED AS THE BLACK--THEY SEEM MUCH MORE DESTRUCTIVE AND POWERFUL.»

«WE SHOULD ENTERTAIN A TREATY FOR NOW, IF ONLY TO STRIKE AT A COMMON FOE. THEN, WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THESE BLUE WHEN THE TIME COMES.»



STILL NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE WHITE HOUSE REGARDING THE INCIDENT OR THE APPEARANCE OF THESE STRANGE BEINGS, BUT SPECULATION IS RUNNING WILD.

PRESIDENT CARTWRIGHT IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE NATION AT FIVE O'CLOCK, TONIGHT. THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SURELY BE WATCHING.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS. THE DEMOCRATS HAVE SLASHED OUR DEFENSE BUDGET TIME AND TIME AGAIN. AND NOW, WE HAVE A THREAT TO OUR ENTIRE WAY OF LIFE, AND WE'RE NOT PREPARED.

THIS REVELATION ISN'T A SURPRISE TO THOSE THAT HAVE READ MY BOOK. THEY'RE THE SAME SPECIES HOLED UP UNDER LOCK AND KEY IN ROSWELL. THESE... CREATURES... HAVE BEEN LIVING AMONG US FOR SOME TIME.

YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN RIO DE JANEIRO WASN'T THE WORK OF GOD. WE'VE BEEN IGNORING THE RIGHT PATH FOR SO LONG, AND NOW IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PRICE.

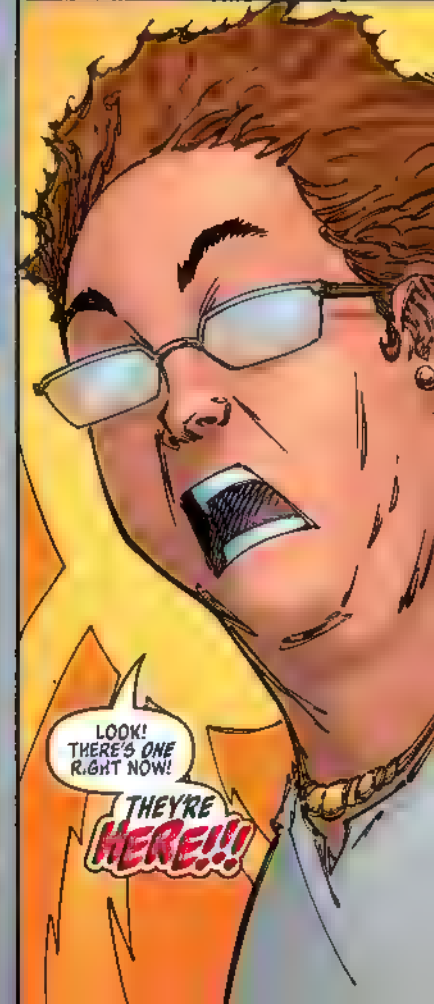
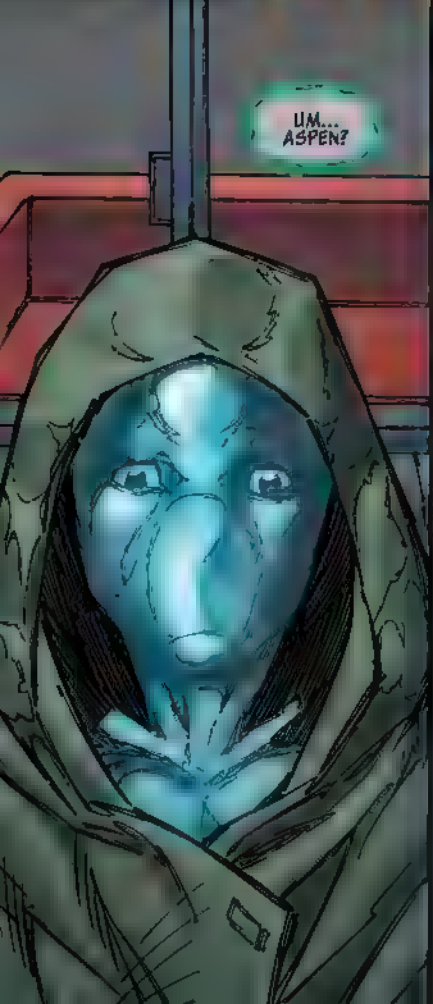
IT'S A GOOD THING WE STOPPED FOR SOME NEW CLOTHES. I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ON DISPLAY SITTING HERE IN TRAFFIC. BUT AFTER A PLANE, A PRISONER, AND PICK-UP, I THINK I'VE STOLEN MY QUOTA FOR THE MONTH.

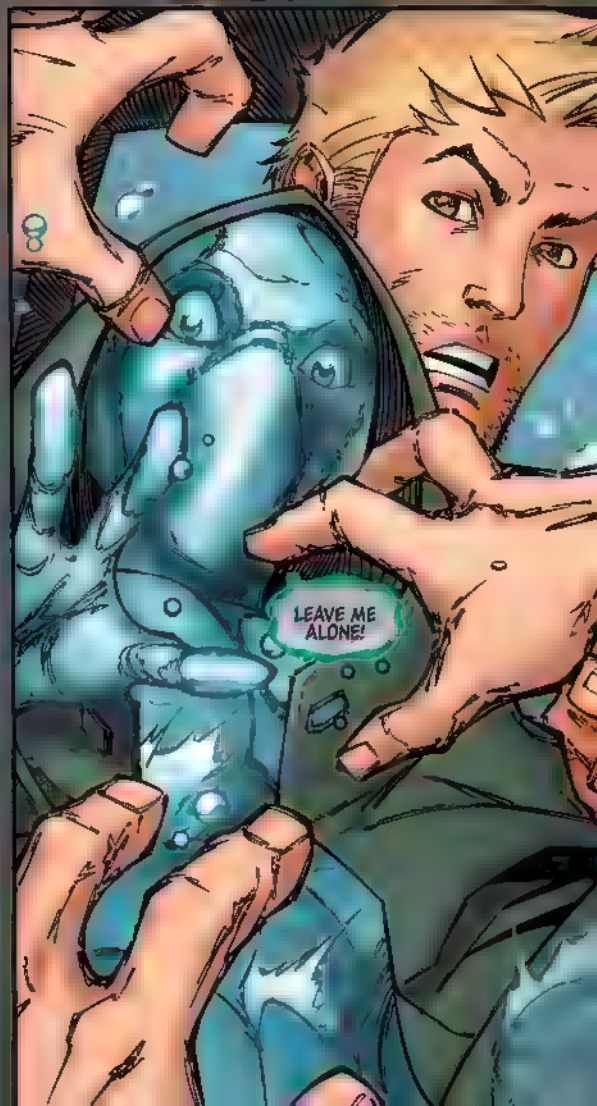
FINN, HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP? IS THE PONCHO BOTHERING YOU? IT WAS THE ONLY THING THAT WOULDN'T SOAK RIGHT THROUGH YOU.

I'M OKAY. JUST DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN MY FORM. UNLIKE YOU ASPEN, I DON'T FARE SO WELL OUT OF THE WATER.

WE'LL BE BACK IN THE WATER SOON. CHANCE?

DON'T WORRY, ASPEN. WE'RE ONLY A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE OCEAN. I'LL GET US THE REST OF THE WAY ON SURFACE STREETS.







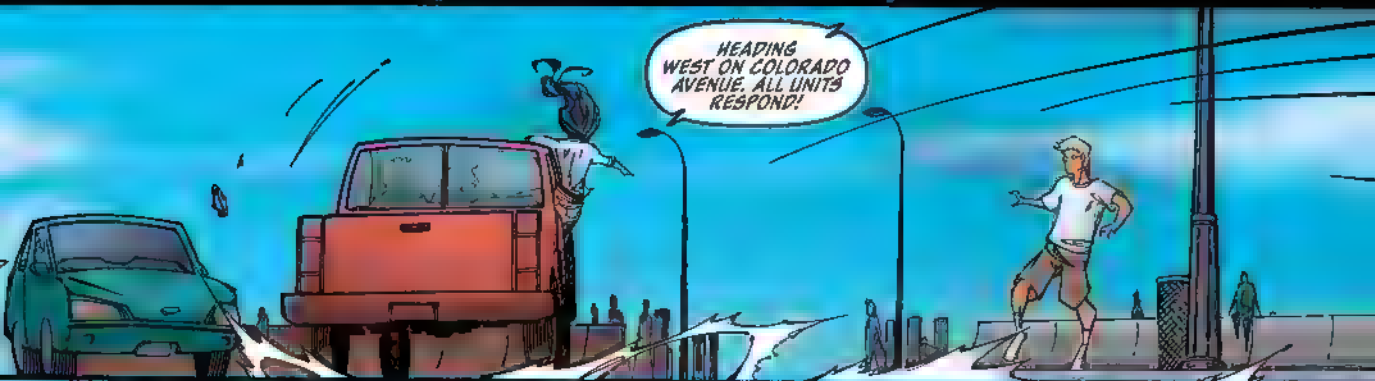
BACK OFF

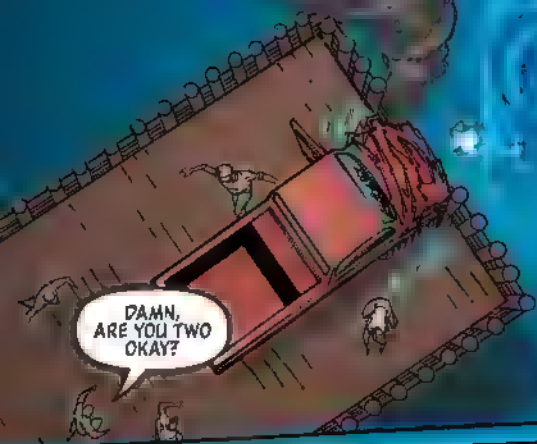
SHE'S...
SHE'S ONE OF
THEM.

JUST STAY
BACK. WE DON'T
WANT TO HURT
ANYONE.

ASPEN,
COME ON!

WE
GOTTA
GO.

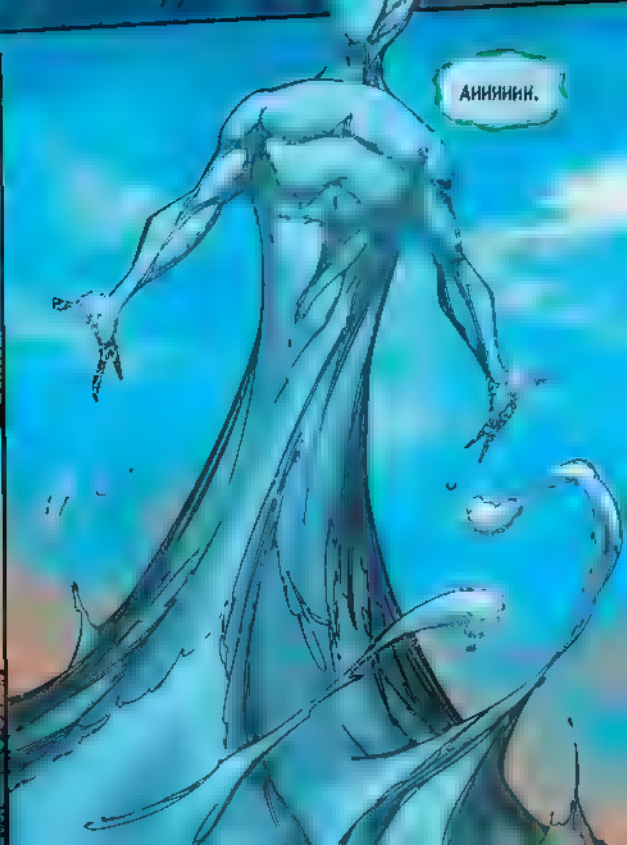
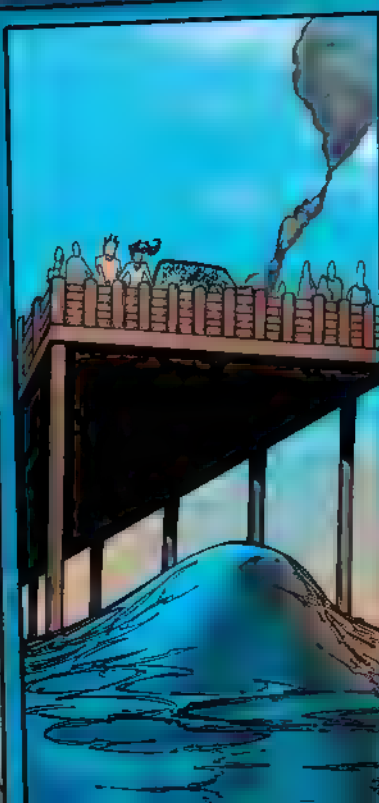




DAMN,
ARE YOU TWO
OKAY?



FINN?



АНИИИИИ.

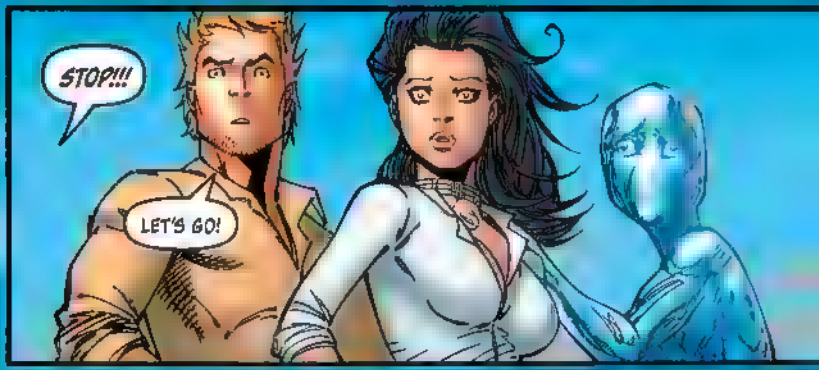


MUCH BETTER.



OH, MY GOD.

ARE... ARE YOU SEEING THIS?!?



STOP!!!

LET'S GO!

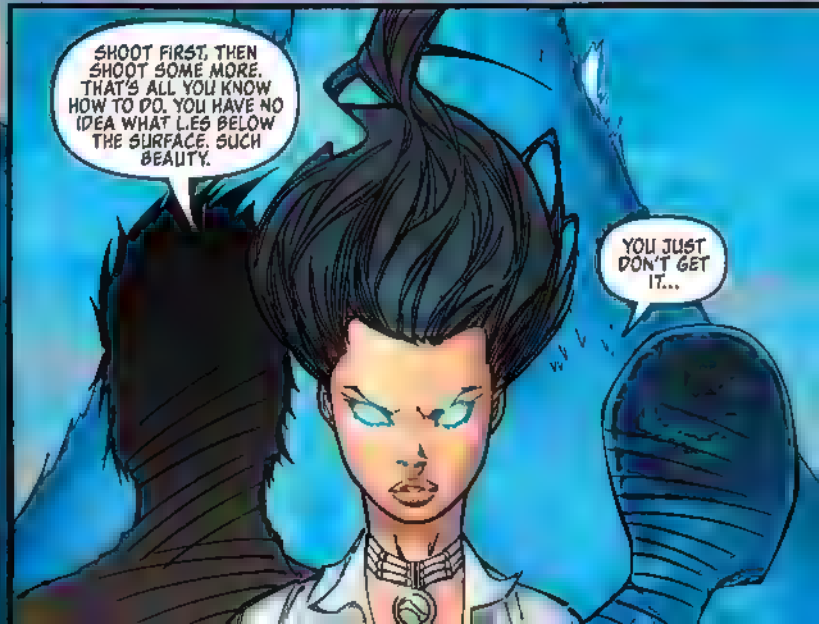


WE'VE GOT THEM. THEY HAVE NO PLACE TO RUN.

YOU IDIOT. THEY LIVE IN THE OCEAN. OPEN FIRE!

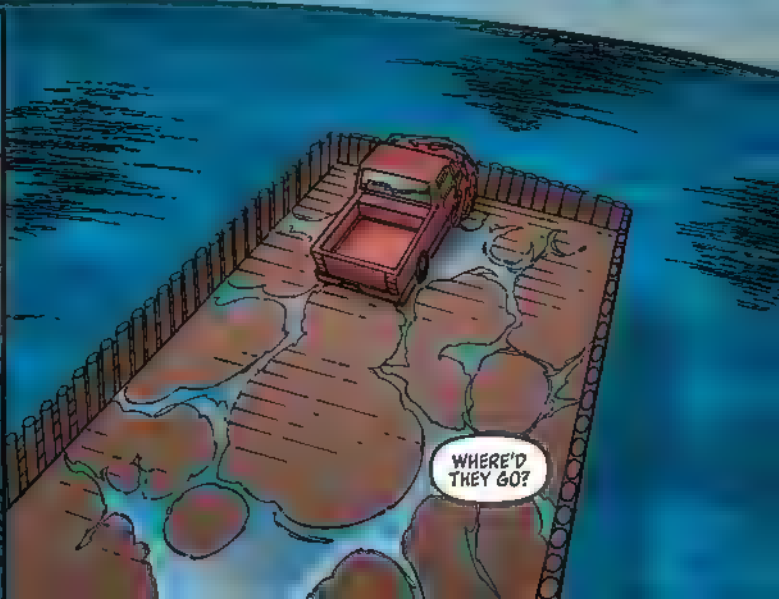
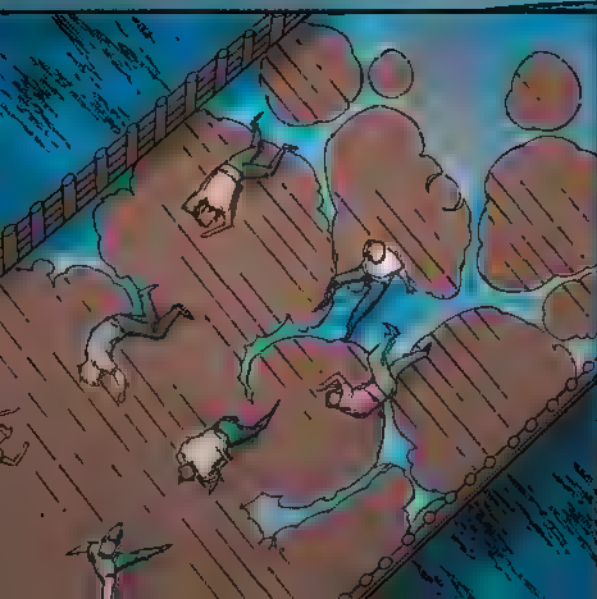
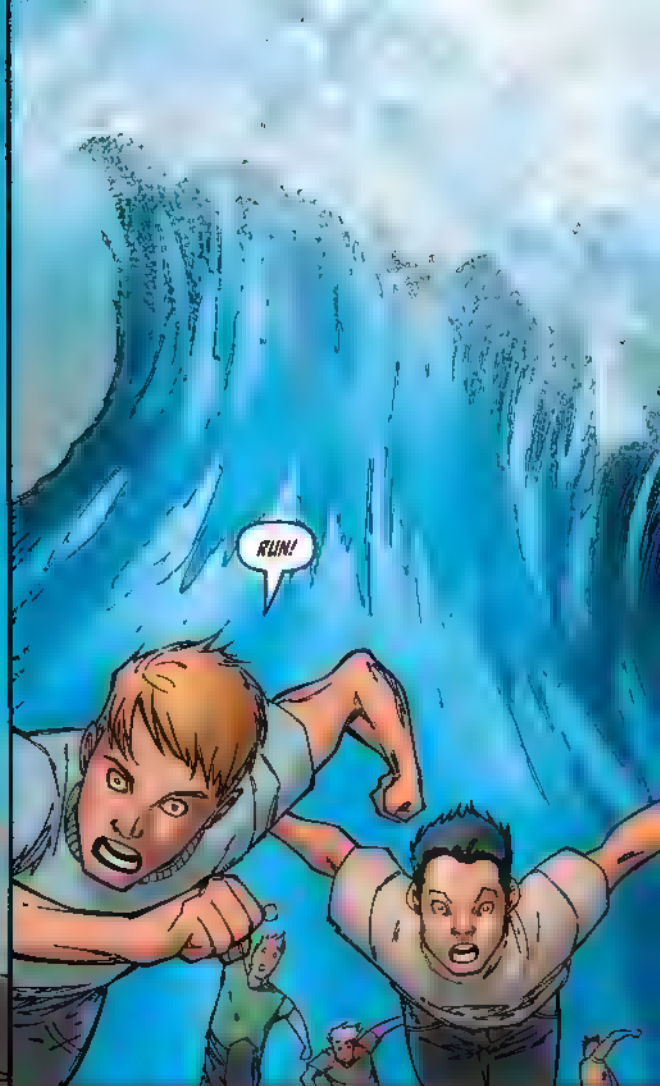


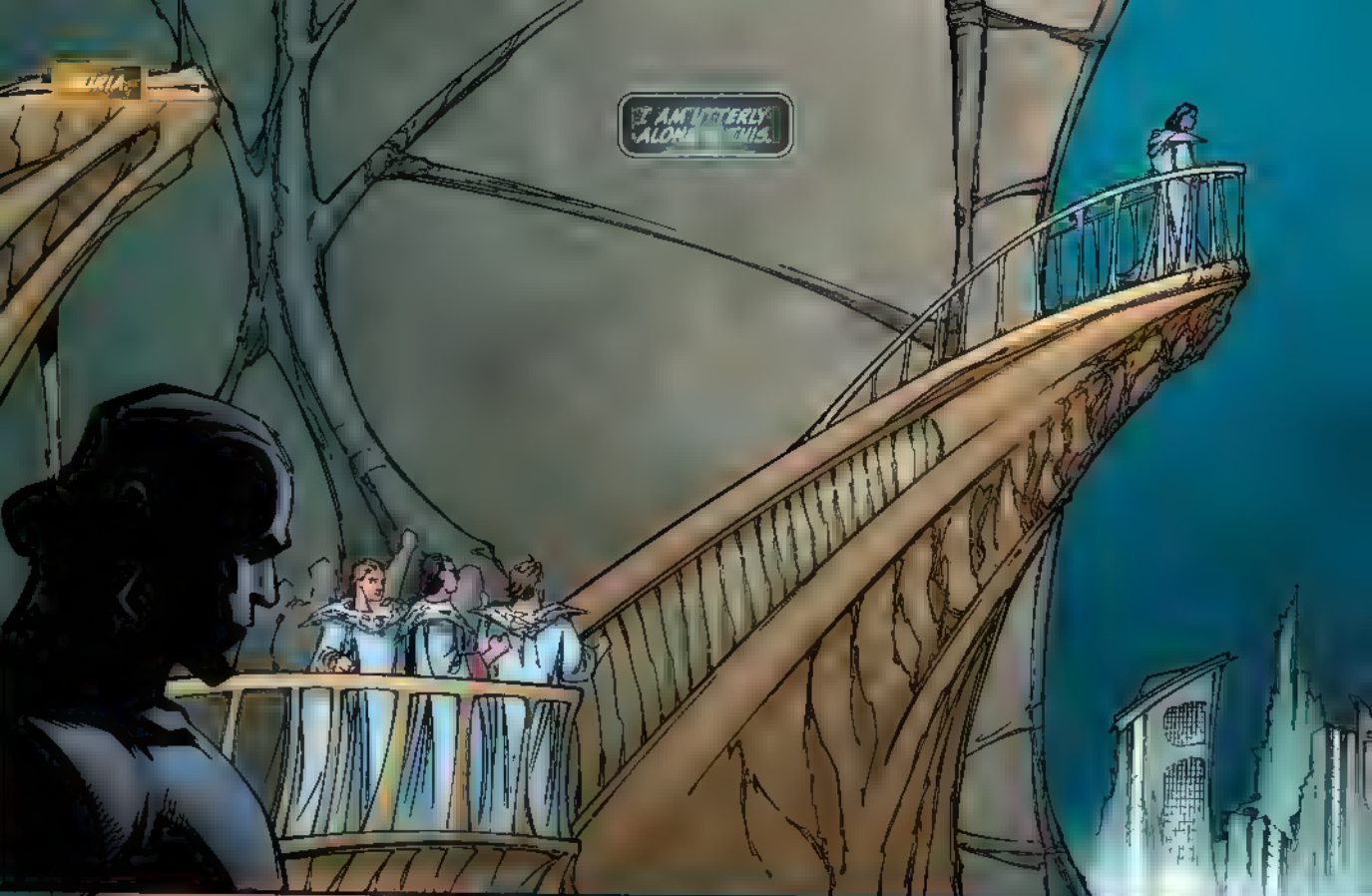
STAY BEHIND ME.



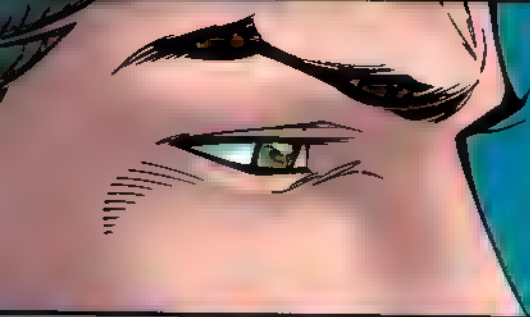
SHOOT FIRST, THEN SHOOT SOME MORE. THAT'S ALL YOU KNOW HOW TO DO. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT LIES BELOW THE SURFACE. SUCH BEAUTY.

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT...





I AM UTTERLY ALONE THIS.



THE COUNCIL FOUGHT THE DECISION UNTIL THE VERY END AND HAVE MADE THEIR DISMAY KNOWN IN THEIR ABSENCE. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, OR THIS SITUATION I HAVE CREATED.

BUT I SAW NO OTHER COURSE.

IT IS TRUE THAT WAR WITH THE HUMANS IS STILL POSSIBLE, BUT HAD WE DONE NOTHING, WAR WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE.



WHAT'S THE LATEST?

NAVAL FLEETS HAVE REMAINED IN THEIR POSITIONS, SETTING UP PERIMETERS AROUND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHORES, STILL SUGGESTING DEFENSIVE DEPLOYMENT.

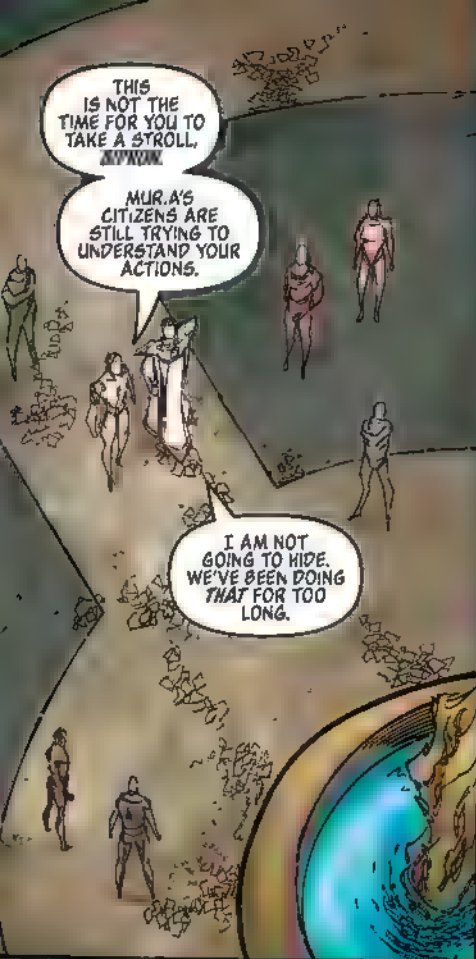
ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THE FREQUENCY WE GAVE THE ADMIRAL?

NEGATIVE. IT'S SILENT, BUT THE REST OF THE SURFACE SYSTEMS ARE JAMMED WITH CHATTER.

WE GAVE THEM A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, I SUPPOSE.



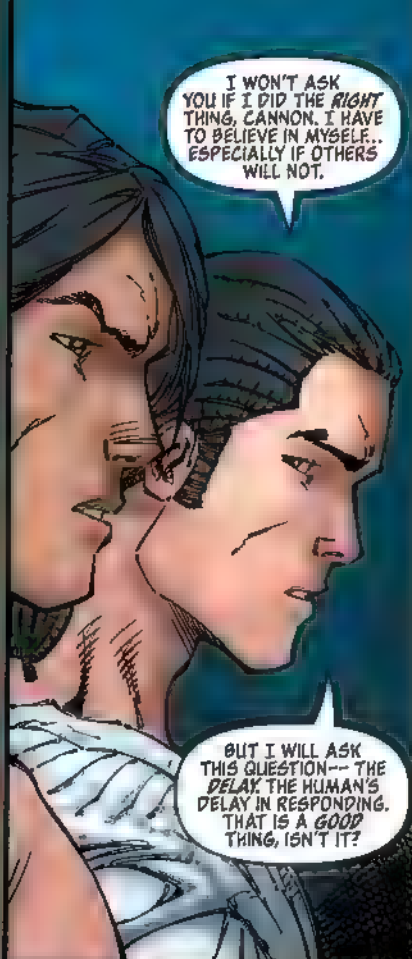
THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR OUR PEOPLE.



THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE A STROLL, *MURAK*.

MURAK'S CITIZENS ARE STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND YOUR ACTIONS.

I AM NOT GOING TO HIDE. WE'VE BEEN DOING THAT FOR TOO LONG.



I WON'T ASK YOU IF I DID THE RIGHT THING, CANNON. I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF... ESPECIALLY IF OTHERS WILL NOT.

BUT I WILL ASK THIS QUESTION-- THE DELAY THE HUMAN'S DELAY IN RESPONDING. THAT IS A GOOD THING, ISN'T IT?



I DO NOT PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND THE WORKING OF THE HUMANS' POLITICAL MACHINES, BUT IN THEORY-- YES.

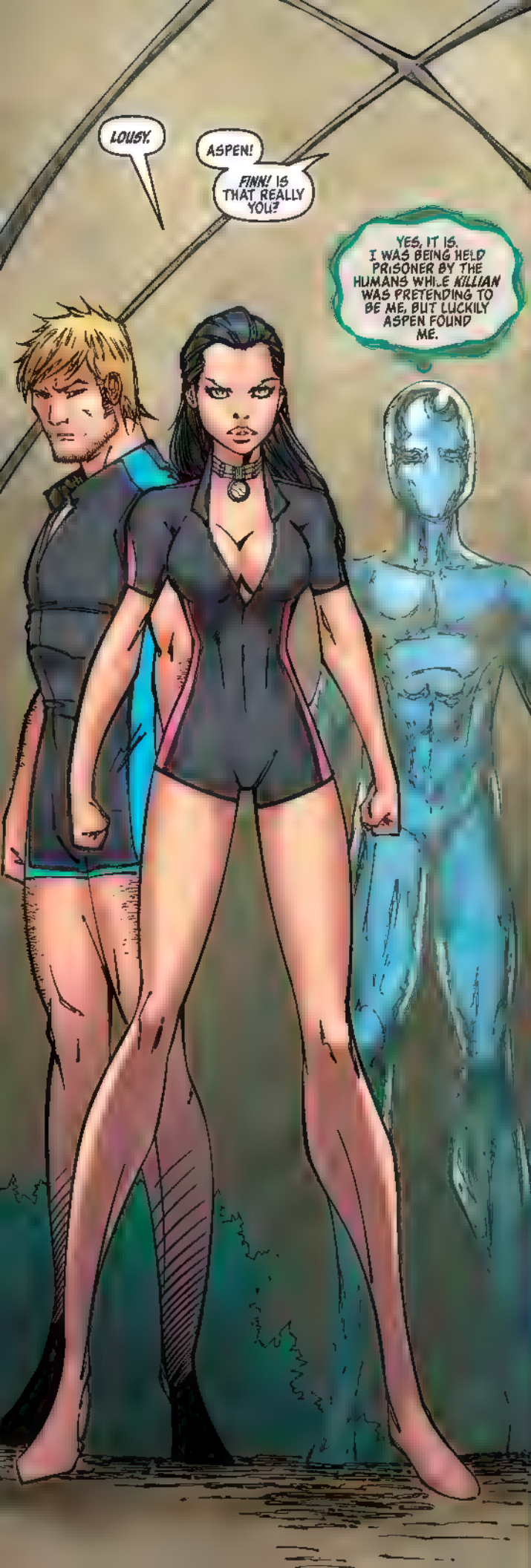
IT MEANS THEY ARE THINKING THINGS THROUGH.



I WISH I KNEW MORE... MORE ABOUT HOW IT WAS GOING UP THERE.



I'LL TELL YOU HOW IT'S GOING.



LOUSY.

ASPEN!

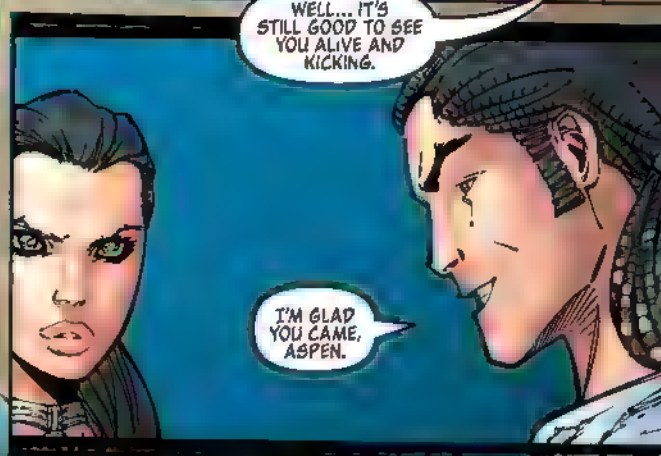
FINN! IS THAT REALLY YOU?

YES, IT IS. I WAS BEING HELD PRISONER BY THE HUMANS WHILE KILLIAN WAS PRETENDING TO BE ME, BUT LUCKILY ASPEN FOUND ME.



I DON'T BELIEVE IT. LOOK AT YOU. IT'S AS IF YOU HAVEN'T AGED A DAY.

DON'T REMIND ME. NOT ONLY AM I UNABLE TO RETURN TO SOLID FORM, BUT I'VE ALSO STOPPED GROWING EVER SINCE THE BEAM RIPPED ME APART.



WELL... IT'S STILL GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE AND KICKING.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME, ASPEN.



I KNOW YOUR SITUATION IS DIFFICULT, BUT IT MEANS A LOT TO YOUR PEOPLE THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US.

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, SIPHON?!!

I THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD APPRECIATE THE STEPS I'VE TAKEN.



THINK AGAIN, I MEAN, DIDN'T YOU GET ENOUGH OF HUMANITY'S HOSPITALITY WITH MAYLANDER'S ATTACK? DIDN'T ENOUGH SUFFER? DID YOU HAVE TO START A WAR WITH THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE?

I AM NOT TRYING TO START A WAR, ASPEN. I AM TRYING TO END IT, ONCE AND FOR ALL.



THAT'S GREAT
ON PAPER, BUT WE
JUST GOT DRIVEN
AWAY LIKE A BAND
OF WITCHES.

I THINK YOU
OVERESTIMATE
THEIR CAPACITY FOR
UNDERSTANDING.



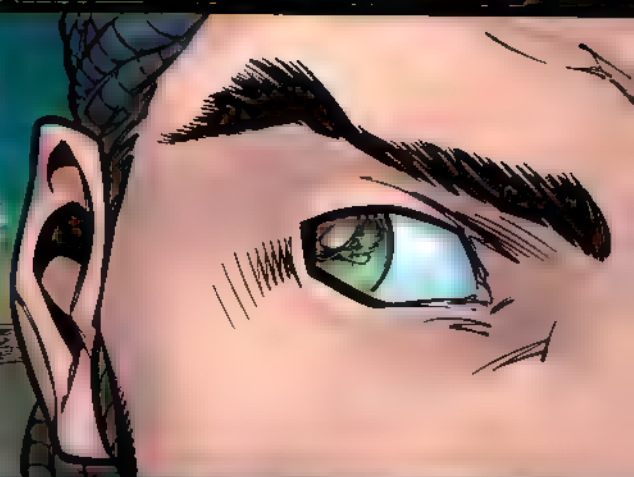
ASPEN, ONLY
BY COMING FORWARD
CAN WE HOPE TO OFFSET
THE ACTIONS OF KILLIAN
AND THE BLACK.

THE HUMANS
ONLY KNOW WHAT
THEY SEE OF US. AND IF
ALL THEY SEE IS TERROR
AND DESTRUCTION, THEN
THAT IS HOW THEY WILL
VIEW ALL OF US.



SIPHON!

THE HUMANS
NEED TO SEE THE
TRUE FACE OF
THE BLUE.



IT'S THEM...



...WE HAVE A
RESPONSE FROM
THE HUMANS.

THERE.

IT'S SO EASY
TO SEE THAT THE
HUMANS DON'T
STAND A CHANCE
AGAINST US.

NO DOUBT, **TORMO**.
IF THAT BLUE CONTINGENT
HADN'T INTERVENED, THE COASTAL
AREA WOULD BE UNDERWATER THIS
VERY MOMENT. I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE THEY SIDED WITH
THE HUMANS.

I CAN, **LENYX**. SIPHON
ALWAYS LACKED THAT KILLER
INSTINCT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AND
IT SEEMS THAT WEAKNESS HAS
FOLLOWED HIM INTO
POLITICAL OFFICE.

I TELL YOU,
I NEVER TIRE OF
HEARING THE HUMANS
SCREAM WHILE I ENJOY
THE FIREWORKS
SHOW.

SPEAKING OF
FIREWORKS, HERE
COMES **NERIS**.

WHAT
HAS HER SO
ANGRY?

NOT A WHAT, A
WHO. **KILLIAN**. **NERIS**
WANTS HIM TO RULE
OVER HER IN MORE
PLACES THAN THE
BATTLEFIELD.

SO?

SO, WHEN
OUR GLORIOUS
LEADER'S WOMAN
PAYS A VISIT...
SHE TAKES IT
PERSONALLY.

WAIT, **LENYX**...
WHAT WOMAN?

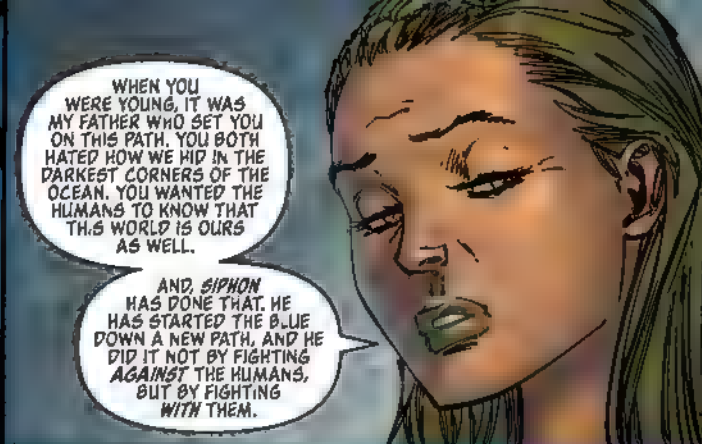


I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE, ANYA?

KILLIAN, YOU KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED-- WHAT SIPHON HAS DONE.

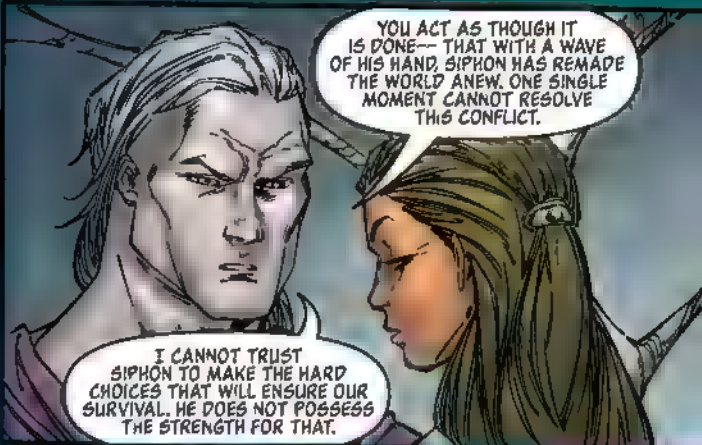
YES, HE HAS BETRAYED HIS PEOPLE, DEFENDING THE VERY CREATURES THAT MEAN TO DESTROY US.

NO, KILLIAN. HE HAS TAKEN THE BEST STEP TOWARD DOING WHAT YOU HAVE SOUGHT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.



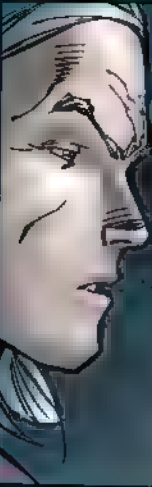
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, IT WAS MY FATHER WHO SET YOU ON THIS PATH. YOU BOTH HATED HOW WE HID IN THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE OCEAN. YOU WANTED THE HUMANS TO KNOW THAT THIS WORLD IS OURS AS WELL.

AND, SIPHON HAS DONE THAT. HE HAS STARTED THE BLUE DOWN A NEW PATH, AND HE DID IT NOT BY FIGHTING AGAINST THE HUMANS, BUT BY FIGHTING WITH THEM.



YOU ACT AS THOUGH IT IS DONE-- THAT WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND, SIPHON HAS REMADE THE WORLD ANEW. ONE SINGLE MOMENT CANNOT RESOLVE THIS CONFLICT.

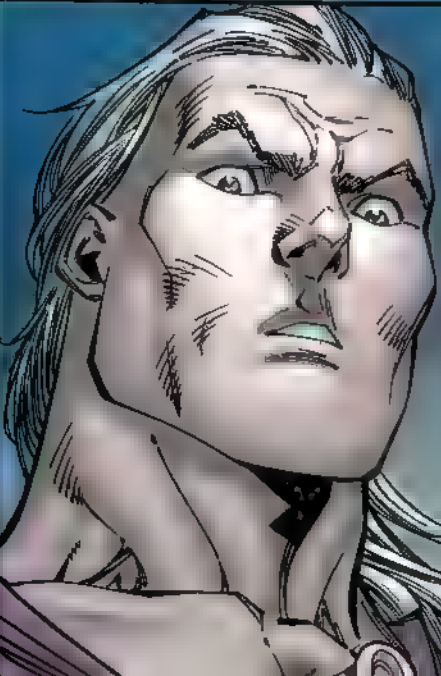
I CANNOT TRUST SIPHON TO MAKE THE HARD CHOICES THAT WILL ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL. HE DOES NOT POSSESS THE STRENGTH FOR THAT.



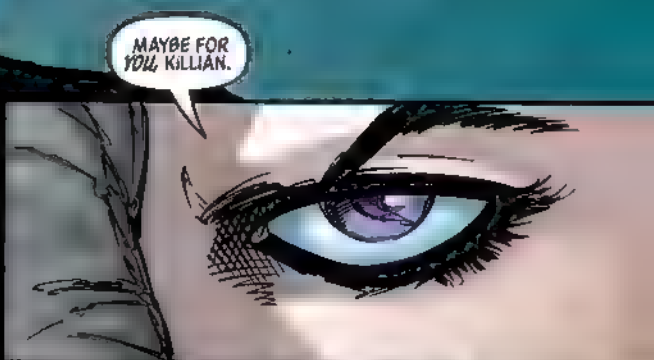
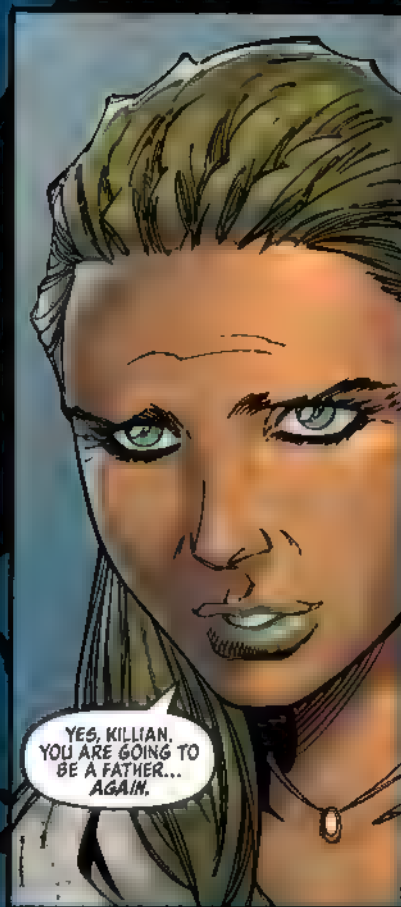
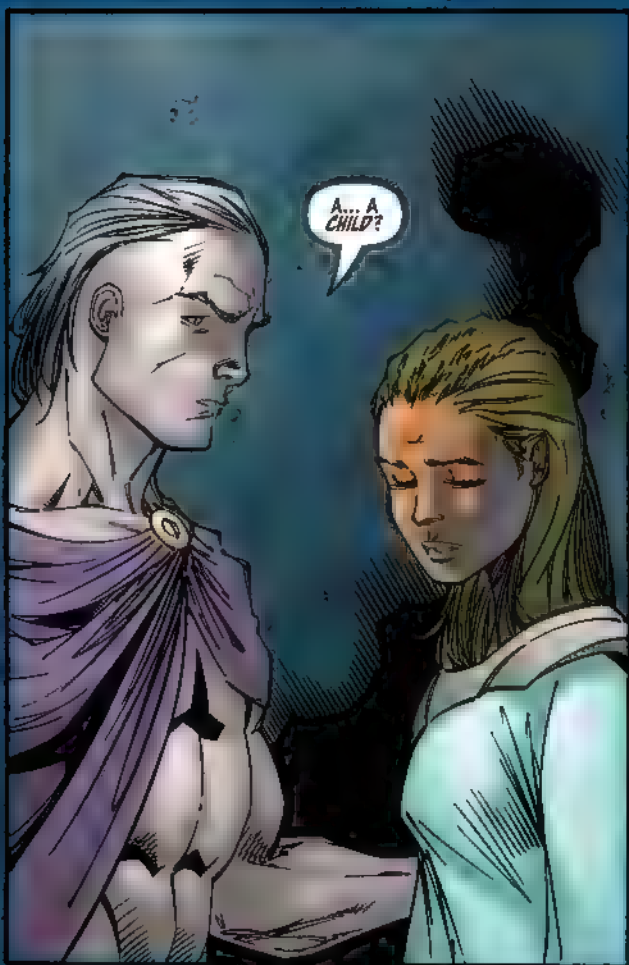
ALL THE MORE REASON TO RETURN TO MURIA. JOIN SIPHON AND HELP HIM BUILD A NEW FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE...



...FOR YOU... AND ME...



...AND OUR BABY.

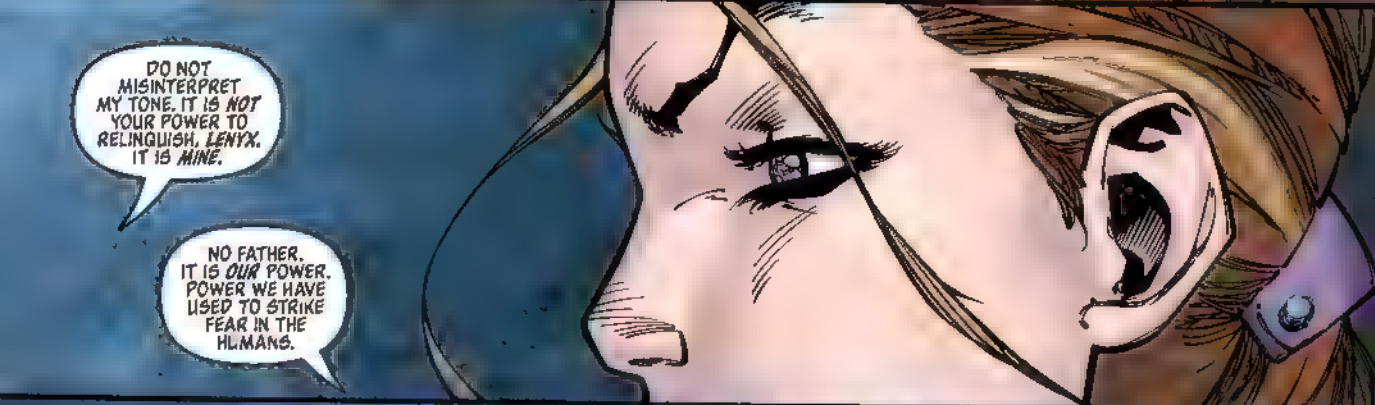




KIAN!! THIS WAS NEVER ABOUT VIOLENCE FOR VIOLENCE'S SAKE. WE HAVE A PURPOSE-- TO ENSURE THE WORLD OF THE BLUE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. IT IS ABOUT ESTABLISHING OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THIS WORLD. NOT ABOUT MINDLESS DESTRUCTION.

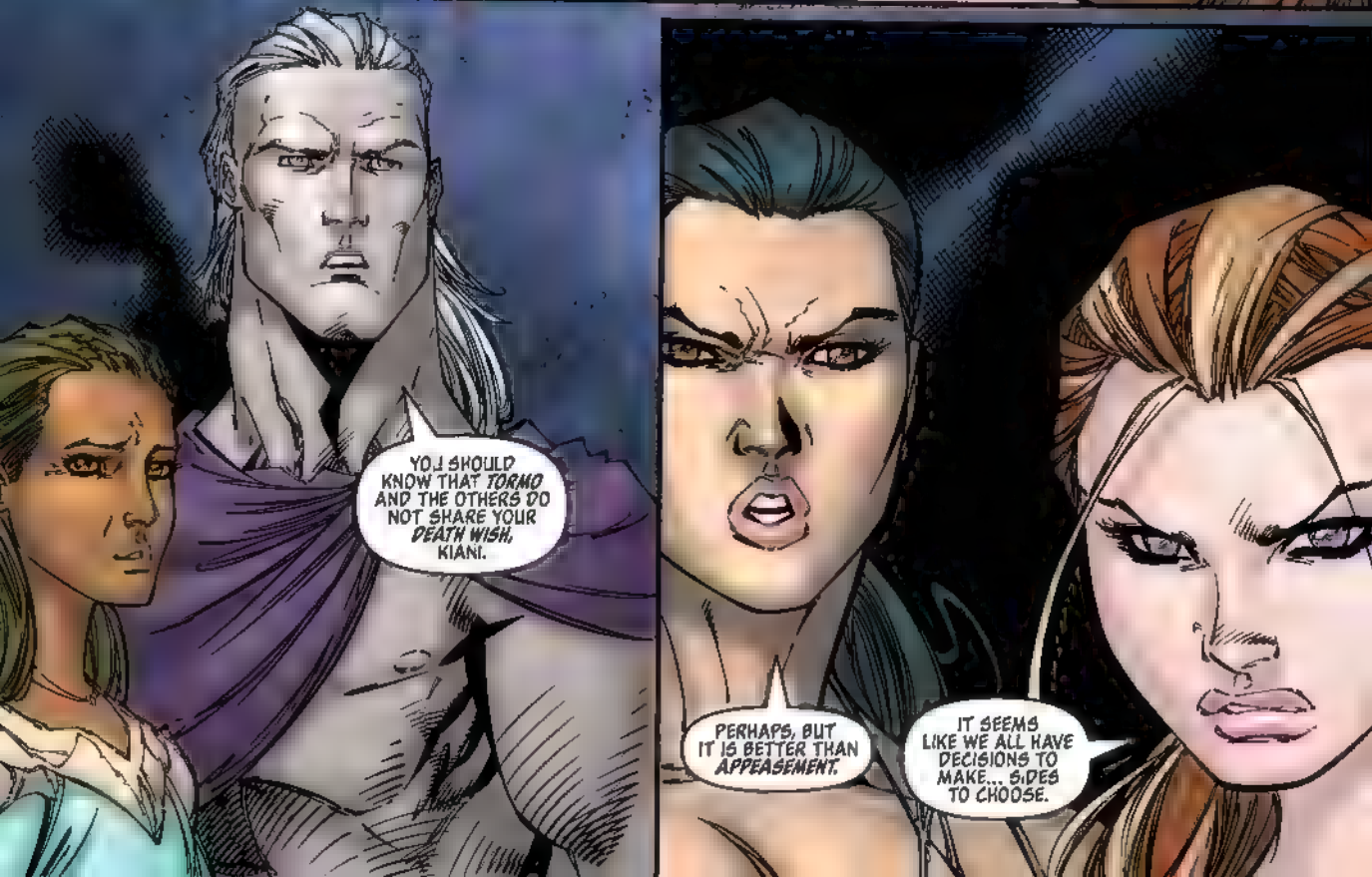
BUT OUR GOAL REMAINS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I AM HEARING. UNDER OUR ARCTIC QUEEN, VANA, WE FOUGHT TO MAKE THE HUMANS KNOW OUR POWER. NOW YOU WANT US TO JUST RELINQUISH IT FREELY?



DO NOT MISINTERPRET MY TONE. IT IS NOT YOUR POWER TO RELINQUISH, LENYX. IT IS MINE.

NO FATHER. IT IS OUR POWER. POWER WE HAVE USED TO STRIKE FEAR IN THE HUMANS.



YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT TORMO AND THE OTHERS DO NOT SHARE YOUR DEATH WISH, KIANI.

PERHAPS, BUT IT IS BETTER THAN APPEASEMENT.

IT SEEMS LIKE WE ALL HAVE DECISIONS TO MAKE... SIDES TO CHOOSE.



YOU SHOULD
KNOW BETTER
THAN TO STAND
AGAINST ME,
CHILD.

I STAND
AGAINST THE HUMANS.
I ALWAYS HAVE. IT IS
YOU WHO IS STANDING
AGAINST US.



GO. TAKE
YOUR FAMILY AND
YOUR LITTLE MINIONS.
RETURN TO MURIA. BUILD
YOUR LIFE ANEW. BUT
DON'T TELL US TO
JOIN YOU.

OUR PLACE
IS HERE, AND
OUR MISSION
IS CLEAR.



WE WILL
DESTROY THE
HUMANS.

TO BE
CONTINUED



VOL. 3

#7

OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™



ASPEN
Vol. 3

#7
OF 10
COVER B

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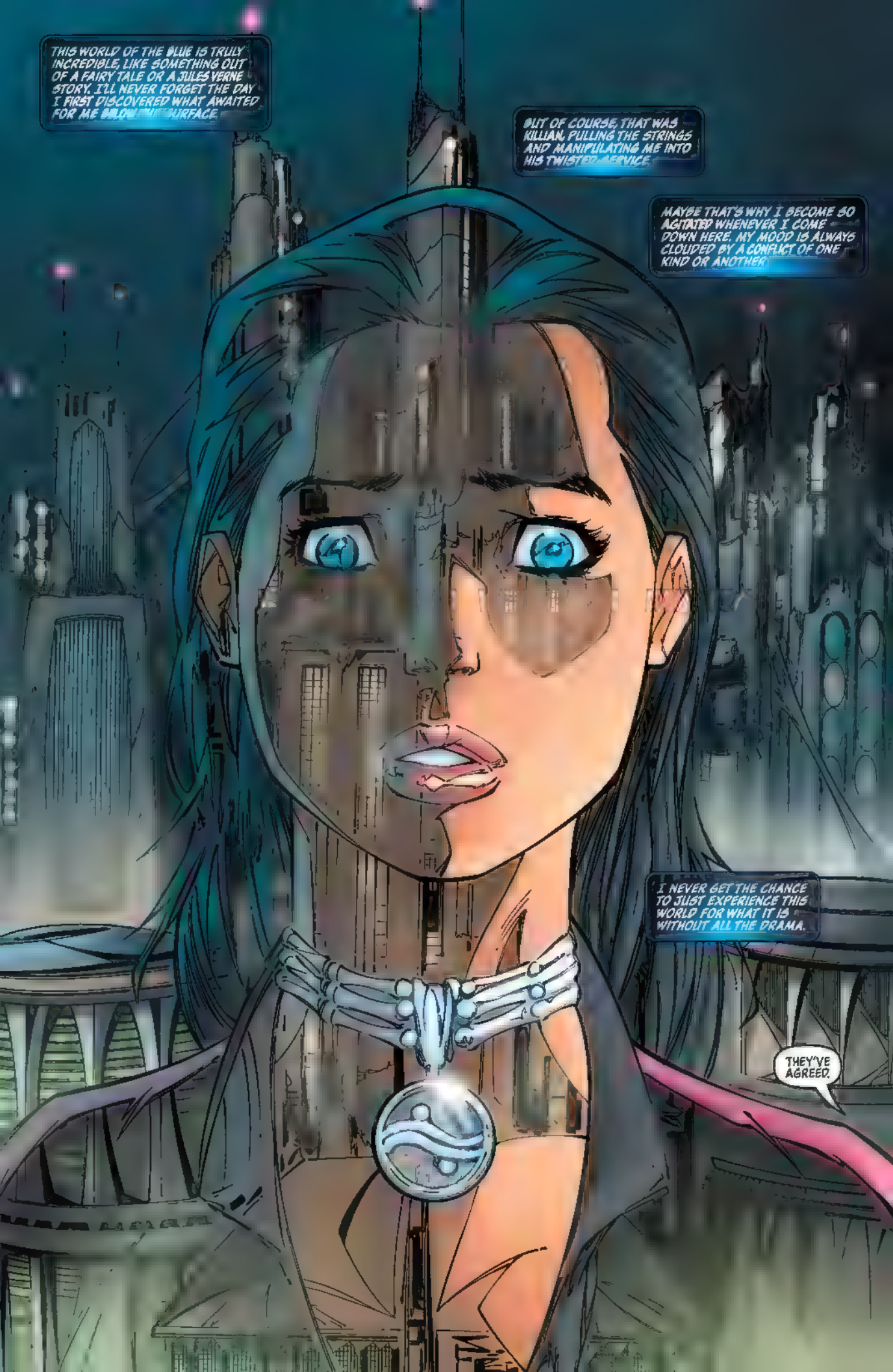
THIS WORLD OF THE BLUE IS TRULY
INCREDIBLE, LIKE SOMETHING OUT
OF A FAIRY TALE OR A JULES VERNE
STORY. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY
I FIRST DISCOVERED WHAT AWAITED
FOR ME BELOW THE SURFACE.

BUT OF COURSE, THAT WAS
KILLIAN, PULLING THE STRINGS
AND MANIPULATING ME INTO
HIS TWISTED SERVICE.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY I BECOME SO
AGITATED WHENEVER I COME
DOWN HERE. MY MOOD IS ALWAYS
CLOUDED BY A CONFLICT OF ONE
KIND OR ANOTHER.

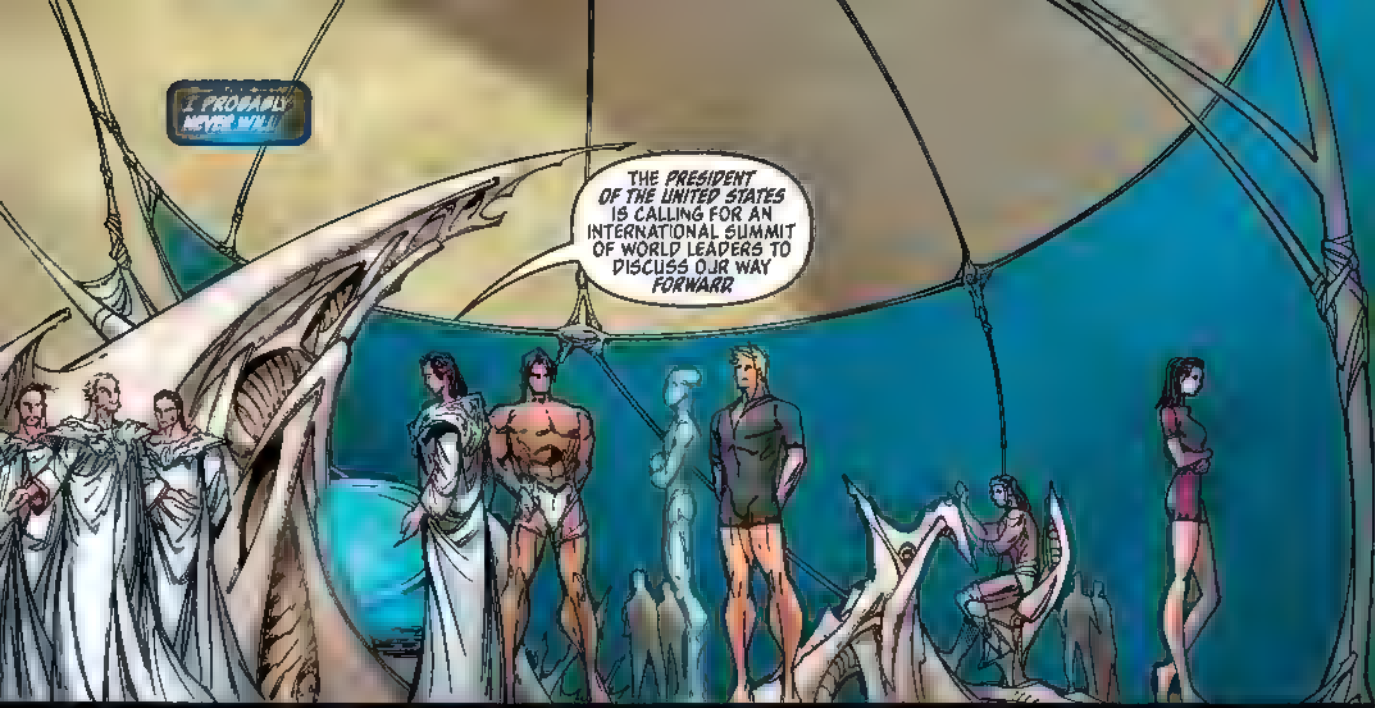
I NEVER GET THE CHANCE
TO JUST EXPERIENCE THIS
WORLD FOR WHAT IT IS
WITHOUT ALL THE DRAMA.

THEY'VE
AGREED.

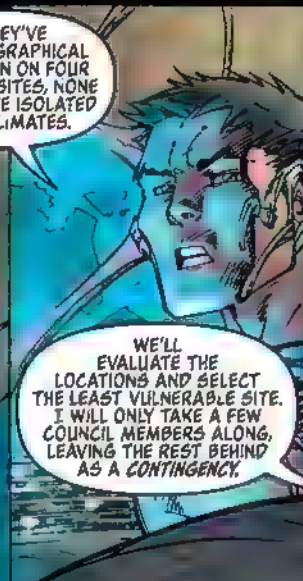


I PROBABLY
NEVER WILL

THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES
IS CALLING FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT
OF WORLD LEADERS TO
DISCUSS OUR WAY
FORWARD

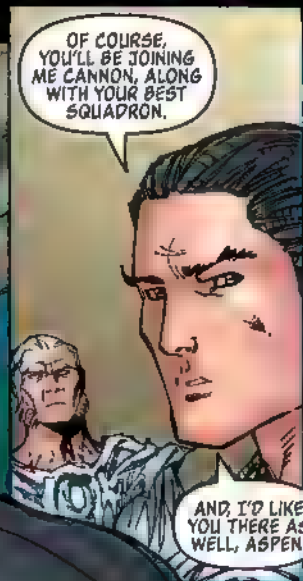


PROBABLY
TRYING TO GET US
IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE DESERT FOR
AN AMBUSH.



SIR, THEY'VE
SENT TOPOGRAPHICAL
INFORMATION ON FOUR
SUGGESTED SITES, NONE
OF WHICH ARE ISOLATED
IN ARID CLIMATES.

WE'LL
EVALUATE THE
LOCATIONS AND SELECT
THE LEAST VULNERABLE SITE.
I WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW
COUNCIL MEMBERS ALONG,
LEAVING THE REST BEHIND
AS A CONTINGENCY.



OF COURSE,
YOU'LL BE JOINING
ME CANNON, ALONG
WITH YOUR BEST
SQUADRON.

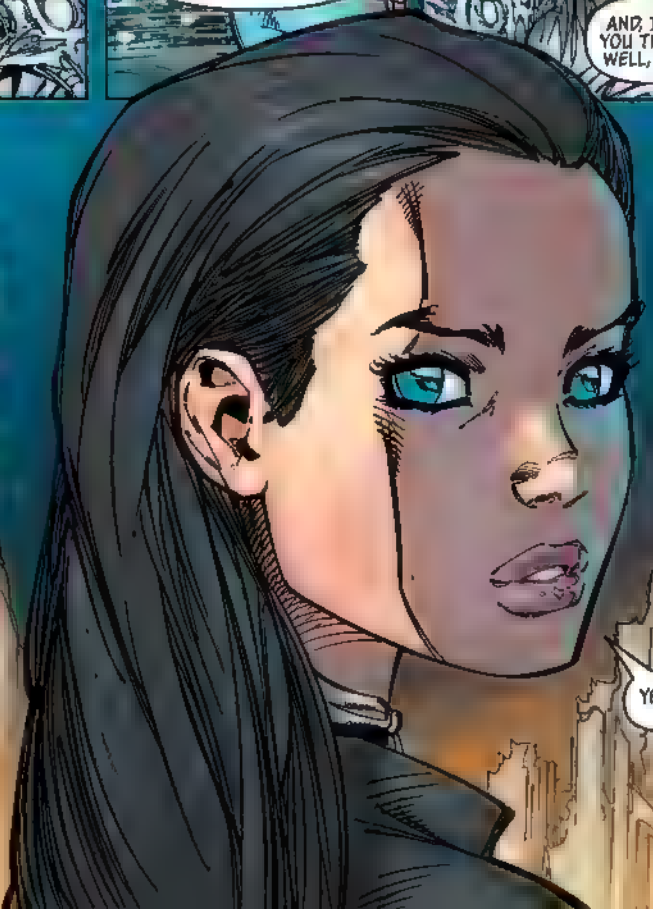
AND, I'D LIKE
YOU THERE AS
WELL, ASPEN.



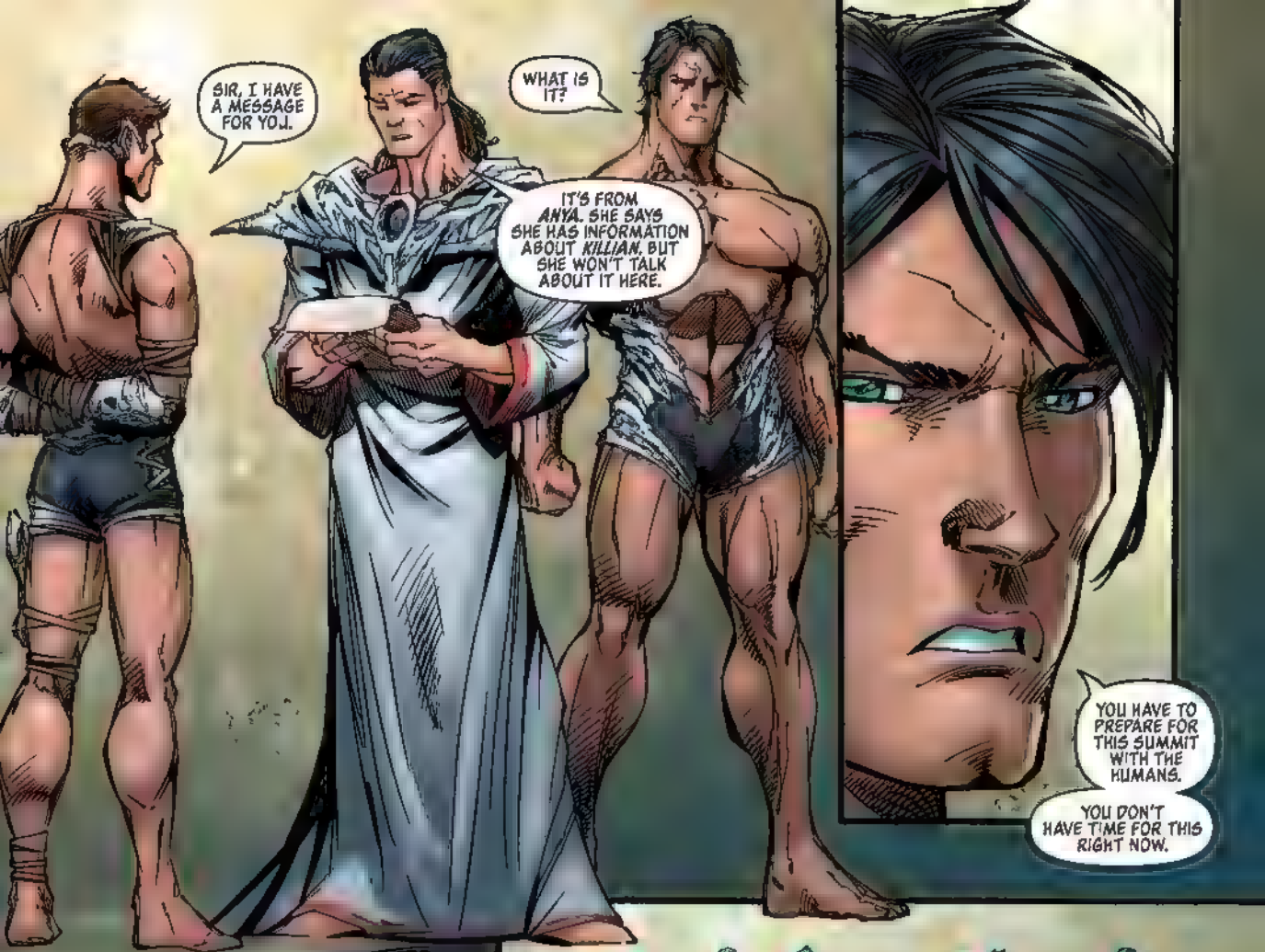
ME?
WHY?

YOU WERE
BORN WITH US, YET
RAISED UP ABOVE AMONG
THE HUMANS. IF WE ARE TO
FIND ANY COMMON GROUND WE
COULD HAVE NO BETTER
GUIDE THAN YOU.

WILL YOU
JOIN US?



YES, I'LL
GO.



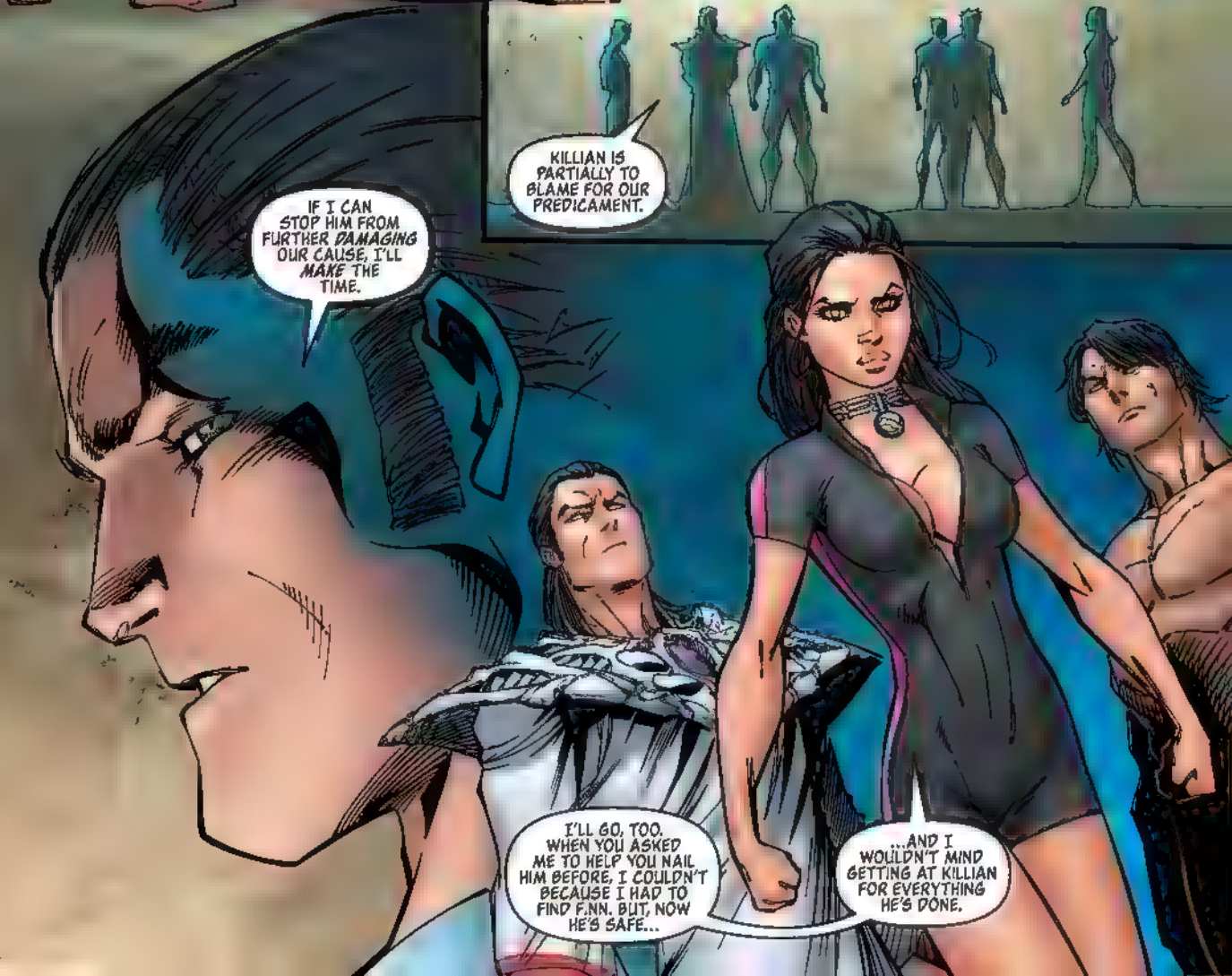
SIR, I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S FROM ANYA. SHE SAYS SHE HAS INFORMATION ABOUT KILLIAN. BUT SHE WON'T TALK ABOUT IT HERE.

YOU HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THIS SUMMIT WITH THE HUMANS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW.



IF I CAN STOP HIM FROM FURTHER DAMAGING OUR CAUSE, I'LL MAKE THE TIME.

KILLIAN IS PARTIALLY TO BLAME FOR OUR PREDICAMENT.

I'LL GO, TOO. WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO HELP YOU NAIL HIM BEFORE, I COULDN'T BECAUSE I HAD TO FIND F.N.N. BUT, NOW HE'S SAFE...

...AND I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING AT KILLIAN FOR EVERYTHING HE'S DONE.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. I SHOULD HAVE JUST COME ON MY OWN.

ANYA SAID SHE WOULD ONLY MEET WITH ME.

BUT, WHY COULDN'T SHE MEET WITH YOU IN THE CITY?

BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SECRETS IN MURIA, CANNON.

I KNOW KILLIAN HAS EMBRACED VIOLENCE, BUT HIS REASONS ARE THE SAME REASONS THAT YOU STEPPED FORWARD BEFORE THE HUMANS.

HE WANTS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND RESPECTED BY THE HUMANS, NOT BE FORCED TO HIDE AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD LIKE A MONSTER.

HIS ACTIONS HAVE ALMOST ENSURED THAT HE WILL BE SEEN IN SUCH LIGHT.

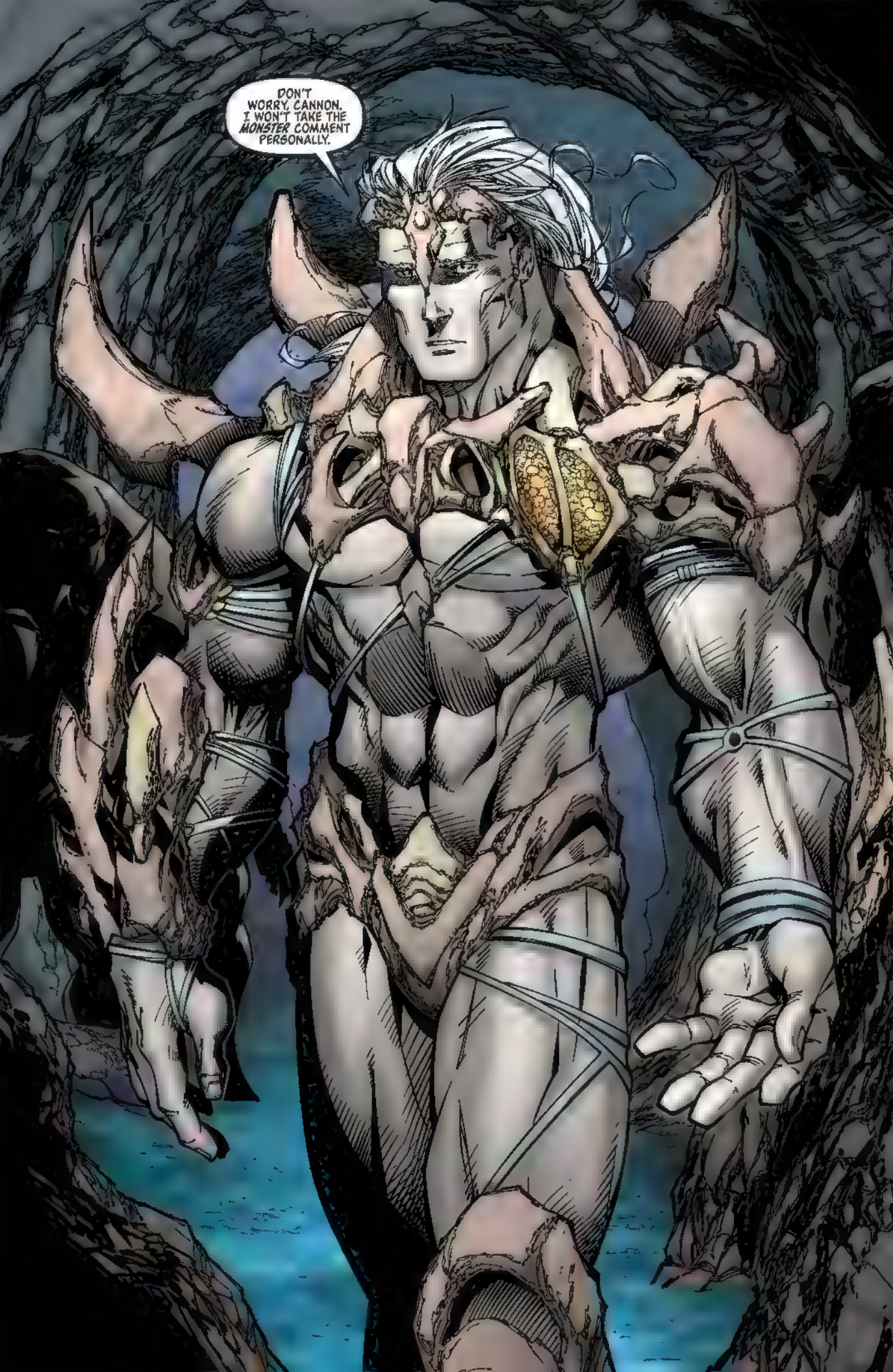
THE TRUTH IS THAT KILLIAN IS A MONSTER. ANYA, I'VE FOUGHT HIM MY ENTIRE LIFE. HE CARES NOTHING FOR RESPECT. KILLIAN SEEKS THE SAME THING NOW THAT HE ALWAYS HAS... POWER.

I KNOW WHAT YOUR LOVE FOR HIM HAS COST YOU, AND I AM SORRY THAT YOUR HEART SINGLED OUT SOMEONE SO UNWORTHY.

YES, ASPEN. I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE IS.

CAN WE CUT TO THE CHASE? ANYA, DO YOU KNOW WHERE KILLIAN IS OR NOT?

DON'T
WORRY, CANNON.
I WON'T TAKE THE
MONSTER COMMENT
PERSONALLY.





I'VE
ALREADY HEARD
ENOUGH. YOU'RE
GOING DOWN!

WE
DIDN'T COME
TO FIGHT,
GIRLIE.

FIGHTING
IS ALL YOU DO,
TORMO.

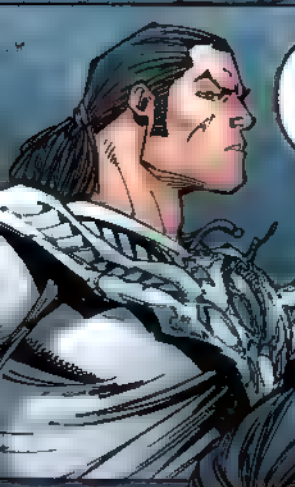




CANNON IS RIGHT--
WE HAVE BEEN AT ODDS
OUR ENTIRE LIVES, BECAUSE I
DID NOT ACCEPT OUR PLACE AT
THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEANS,
COWERING AWAY FROM THE
HUMANS IN FEAR.

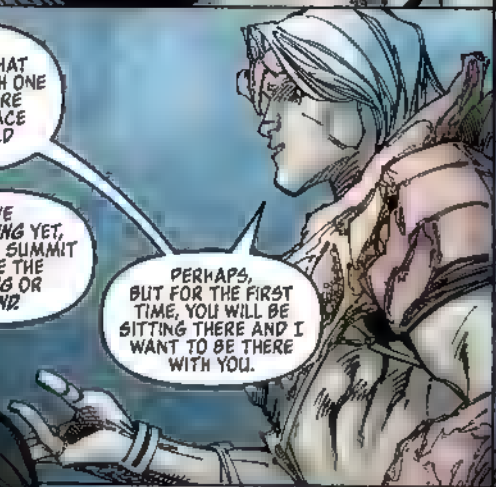
EQUAL FOOTING--
THAT HAS BEEN MY GOAL
ALL ALONG. TO ESTABLISH
THE BLUE AS A PART OF
THE WORLD.

I NEVER
THOUGHT THAT THE
COUNCIL ITSELF WOULD
MOVE IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION. SUCH TALK
WAS NEVER FOLLOWED
UP WITH ACTION.

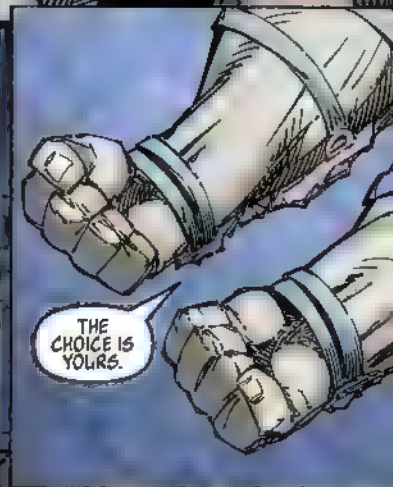


UNTIL NOW...
YOU ARE MAKING THAT
HAPPEN, SIPHON. WITH ONE
BOLD MOVE, YOU ARE
AFFIRMING OUR PLACE
AMONG THE WORLD
ABOVE.

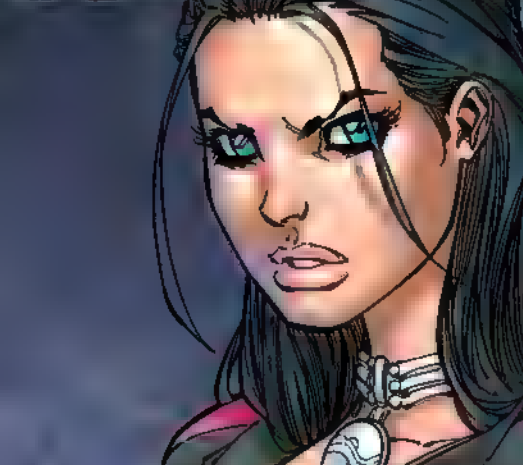
I HAVE
DONE NOTHING YET,
KILLIAN. THIS SUMMIT
COULD BE THE
BEGINNING OR
THE END.



PERHAPS,
BUT FOR THE FIRST
TIME, YOU WILL BE
SITTING THERE AND I
WANT TO BE THERE
WITH YOU.



THE
CHOICE IS
YOURS.



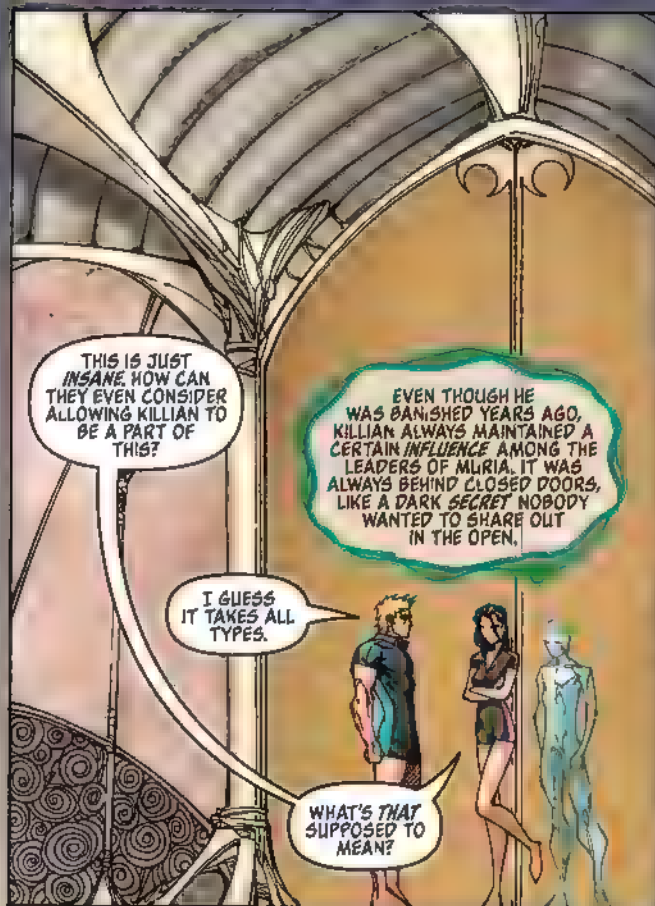
YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY BELIEVE
HIM. KILLIAN ONLY KNOWS
HOW TO LIE. THAT'S WHAT
MANIPULATORS DO, AND
HE'S A MASTER
OF IT.

ASPEN, YOU ARE
RIGHT. I HAVE USED
YOU IN THE PAST, BUT
MY EFFORTS WERE
ALWAYS FOR--

SAVE IT! I'M
NOT INTERESTED IN
WHAT YOU'RE SELLING,
SO JUST STAY THE
HELL AWAY FROM
ME.



I WON'T MAKE
A DECISION RIGHT NOW,
KILLIAN. YOU'LL RETURN TO
MJRIA WITH US, AND I WILL
TAKE THE MATTER BEFORE
THE COUNCIL.

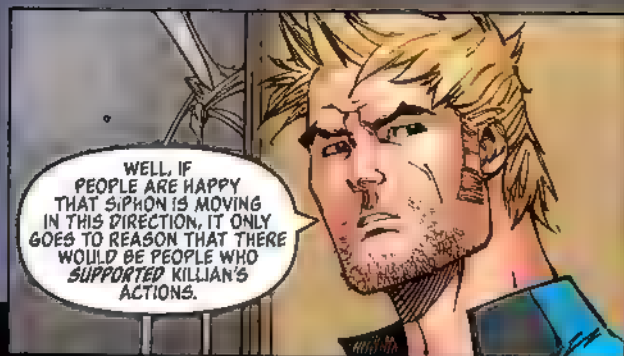


THIS IS JUST INSANE. HOW CAN THEY EVEN CONSIDER ALLOWING KILLIAN TO BE A PART OF THIS?

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BANISHED YEARS AGO, KILLIAN ALWAYS MAINTAINED A CERTAIN INFLUENCE AMONG THE LEADERS OF MURIA. IT WAS ALWAYS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, LIKE A DARK SECRET NOBODY WANTED TO SHARE OUT IN THE OPEN.

I GUESS IT TAKES ALL TYPES.

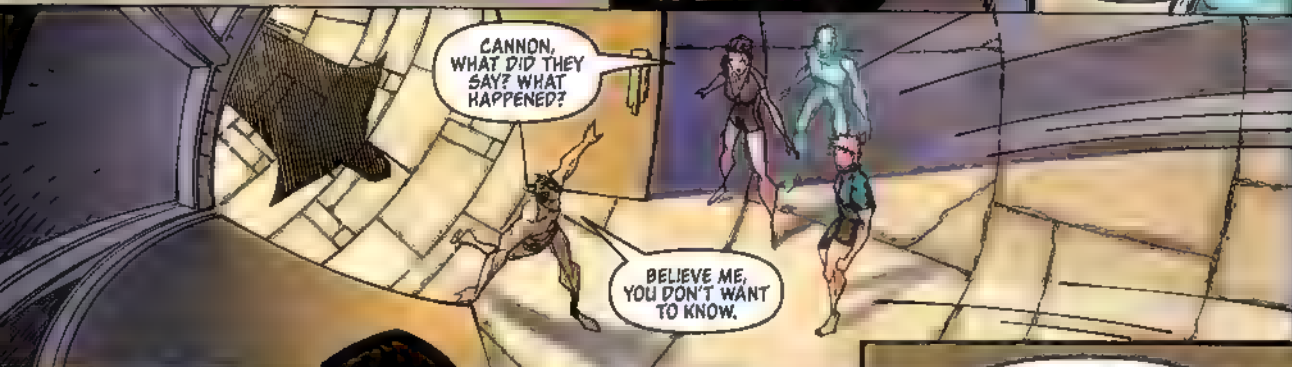
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



WELL, IF PEOPLE ARE HAPPY THAT SIPHON IS MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION, IT ONLY GOES TO REASON THAT THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED KILLIAN'S ACTIONS.

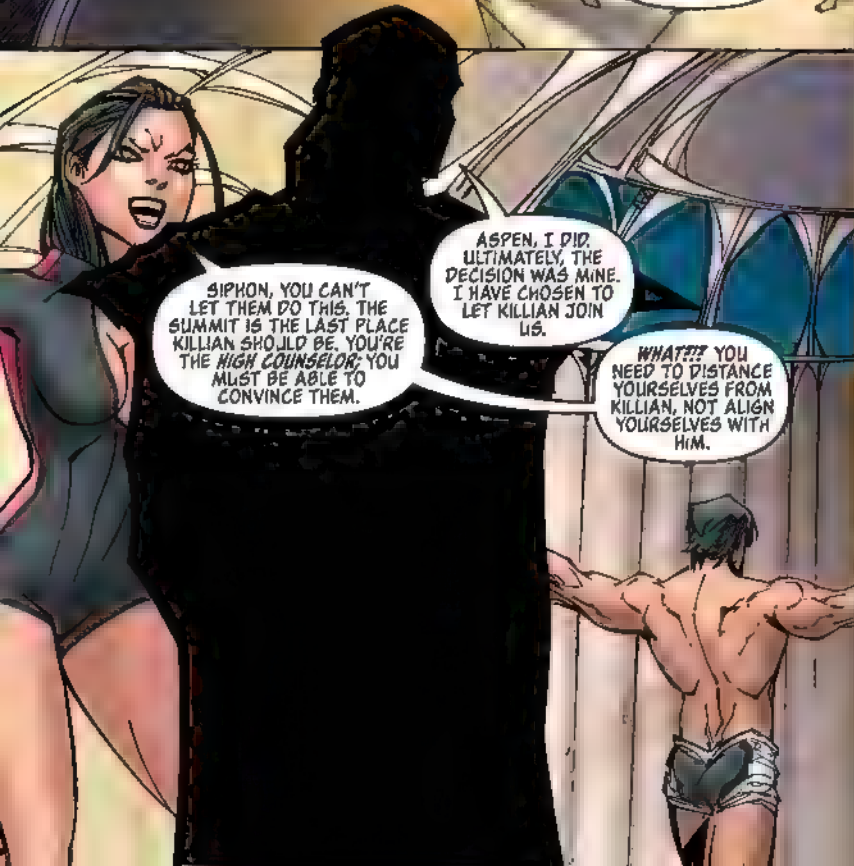


GIVEN ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, I CAN'T IMAGINE HUMANS ARE TOO POPULAR DOWN HERE.



CANNON, WHAT DID THEY SAY? WHAT HAPPENED?

BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.



SIPHON, YOU CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS. THE SUMMIT IS THE LAST PLACE KILLIAN SHOULD BE. YOU'RE THE HIGH COUNSELOR; YOU MUST BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM.

ASPEN, I DID. ULTIMATELY, THE DECISION WAS MINE. I HAVE CHOSEN TO LET KILLIAN JOIN US.

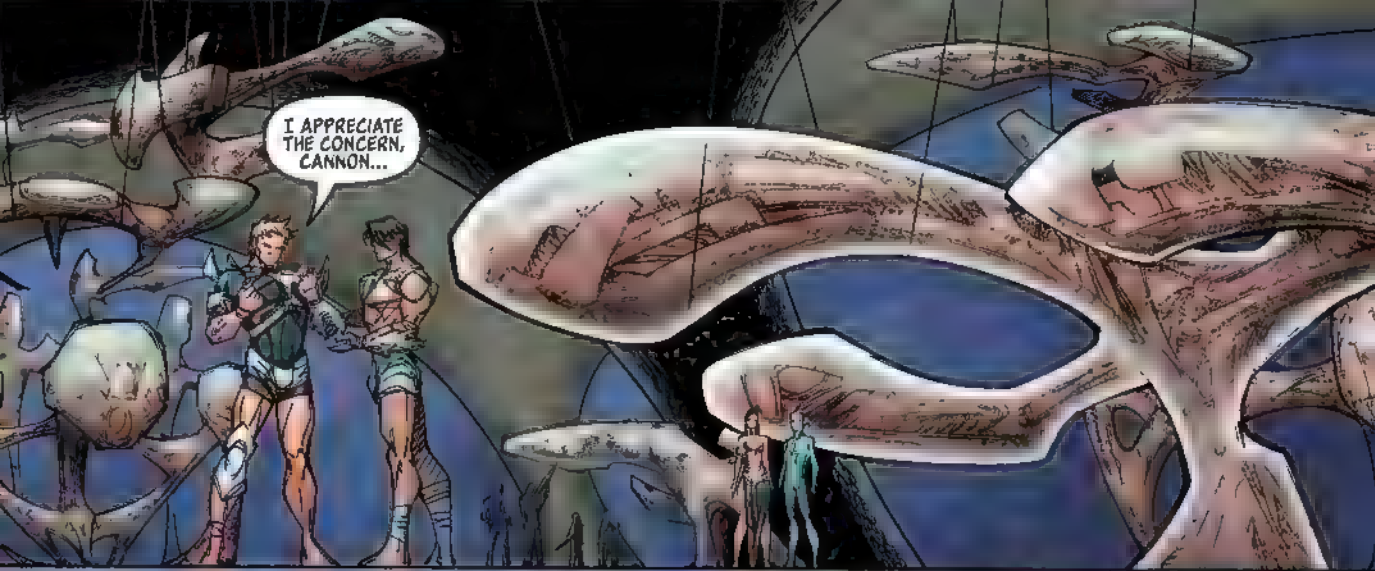
WHAT??? YOU NEED TO DISTANCE YOURSELVES FROM KILLIAN, NOT ALIGN YOURSELVES WITH HIM.



THERE'S NO WAY TO SEPARATE US FROM KILLIAN'S ACTIONS, NOT IN THE EYES OF THE HUMANS. FOR THEM, HE IS THE FACE OF THE BLUE, THE FACE OF THE ENEMY.

HAVING HIM THERE WILL ENSURE THAT THE HUMANS UNDERSTAND THAT I SPEAK FOR ALL OF THE BLUE.

I MAY NOT TRUST KILLIAN, BUT I NEED HIM.



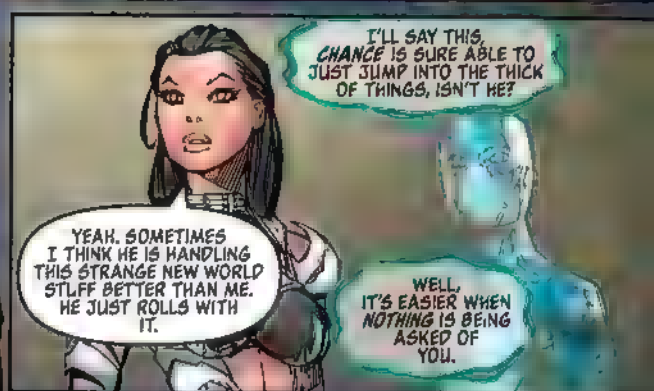
I APPRECIATE
THE CONCERN,
CANNON...



...BUT CORAL
AND SEAWEED
DOESN'T SEEM
LIKE MUCH
PROTECTION.

IT'S SPECIALLY
DESIGNED DOWN HERE,
TWICE AS STRONG AS
KEVLAR, BUT HALF
THE WEIGHT.

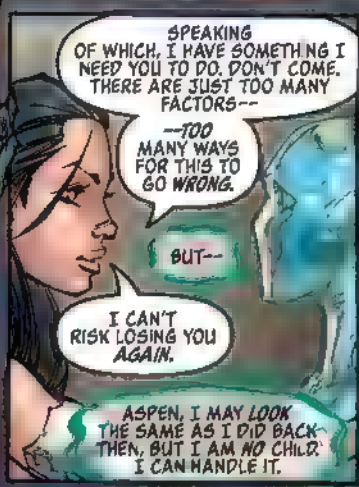
I FEEL LIKE
A TURTLE.



I'LL SAY THIS,
CHANCE IS SURE ABLE TO
JUST JUMP INTO THE THICK
OF THINGS, ISN'T HE?

YEAH. SOMETIMES
I THINK HE IS HANDLING
THIS STRANGE NEW WORLD
STUFF BETTER THAN ME.
HE JUST ROLLS WITH
IT.

WELL,
IT'S EASIER WHEN
NOTHING IS BEING
ASKED OF
YOU.



SPEAKING
OF WHICH, I HAVE SOMETHING I
NEED YOU TO DO. DON'T COME.
THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY
FACTORS--

--TOO
MANY WAYS
FOR THIS TO
GO WRONG.

BUT--

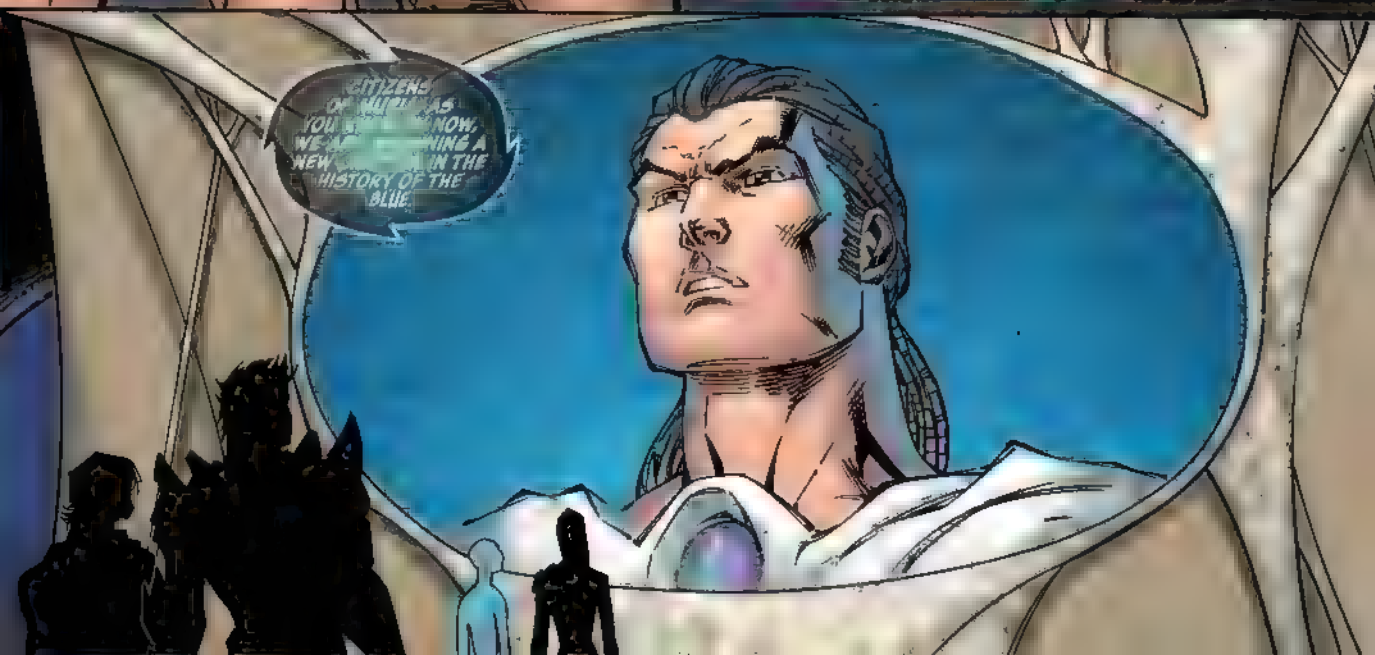
I CAN'T
RISK LOSING YOU
AGAIN.

ASPEN, I MAY LOOK
THE SAME AS I DID BACK
THEN, BUT I AM NO CHILD.
I CAN HANDLE IT.



I KNOW
YOU CAN. BUT,
I CAN'T.

PLEASE,
FINN.



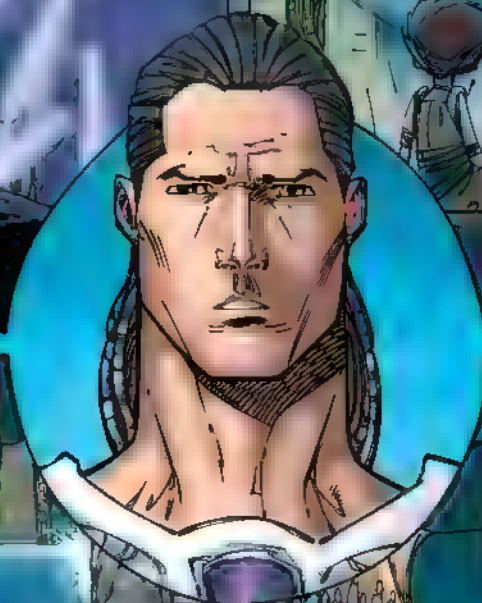
CITIZENS
OF MULLUS AS
YOU KNOW, NOW,
WE ARE CREATING A
NEW HISTORY IN THE
HISTORY OF THE
BLUE.



WE WILL SOON BE TAKING PART IN A GLOBAL SUMMIT WITH DELEGATES FROM NATIONS ALL ACROSS THE WORLD. AS WE WORK TO BRING OURSELVES ON THE WORLD MAP, I KNOW THIS DECISION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR MANY OF YOU.



CHANGE IS NEVER EASY, ESPECIALLY AS WE JOURNEY INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY. WE MEANT A DEPARTURE FROM WHAT HAS BEEN THE DEPENDENT POLITICAL GUIDELINE OF ISOLATION. BUT, AS WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE WORLD IS JUST NOT THAT BIG.



WE CAN NO LONGER HIDE AWAY, PRETENDING AS WE ARE ALONE. FOR ALL THESE YEARS, IT WAS ASSUMED THAT EXPOSING OURSELVES TO THE SURFACE WORLD WOULD BRING ABOUT OUR OWN DEMISE.

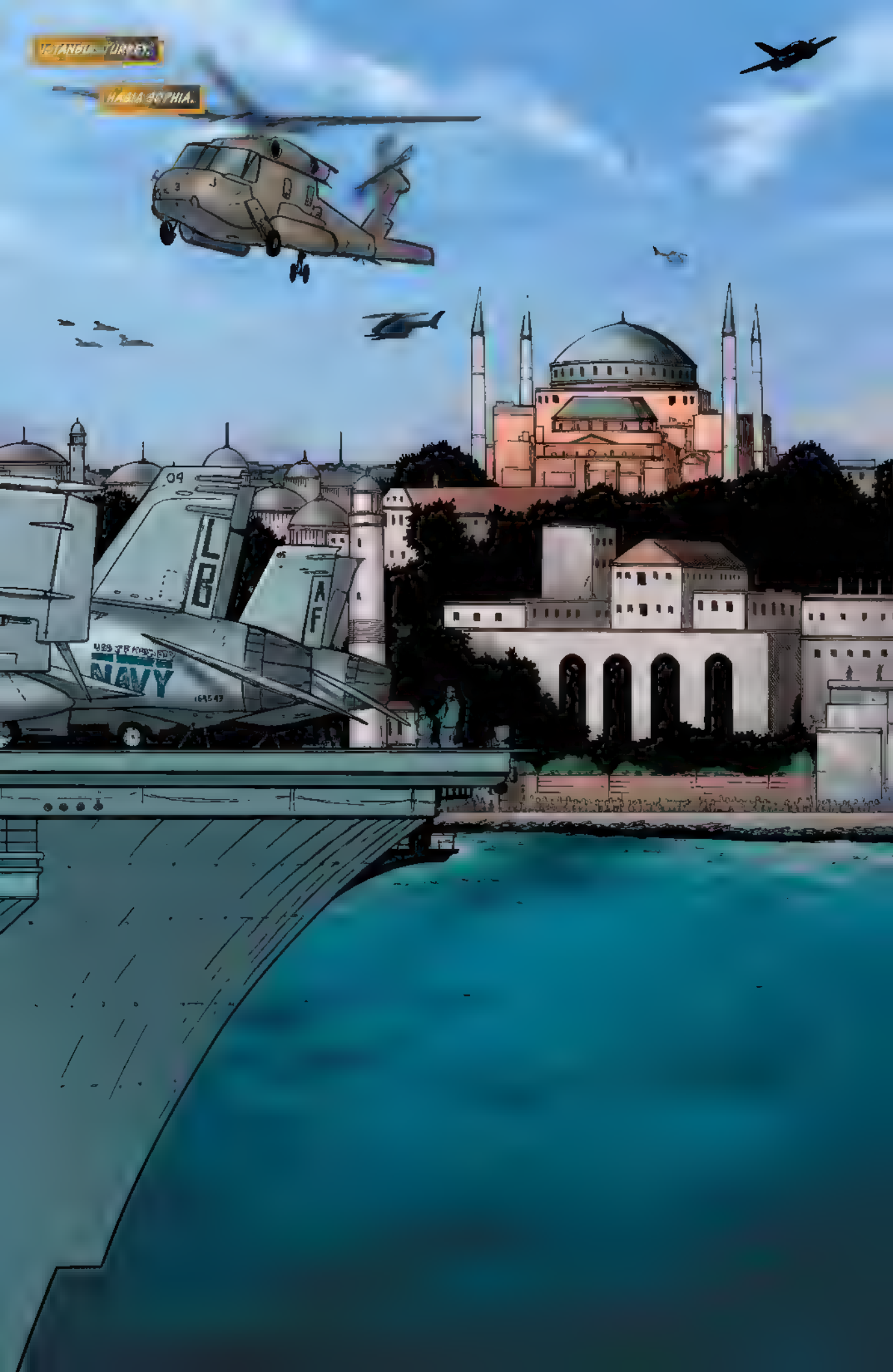
...BUT IT WAS OUR CONFINEMENT THAT HAS RESULTED IN OUR CURRENT SITUATION.

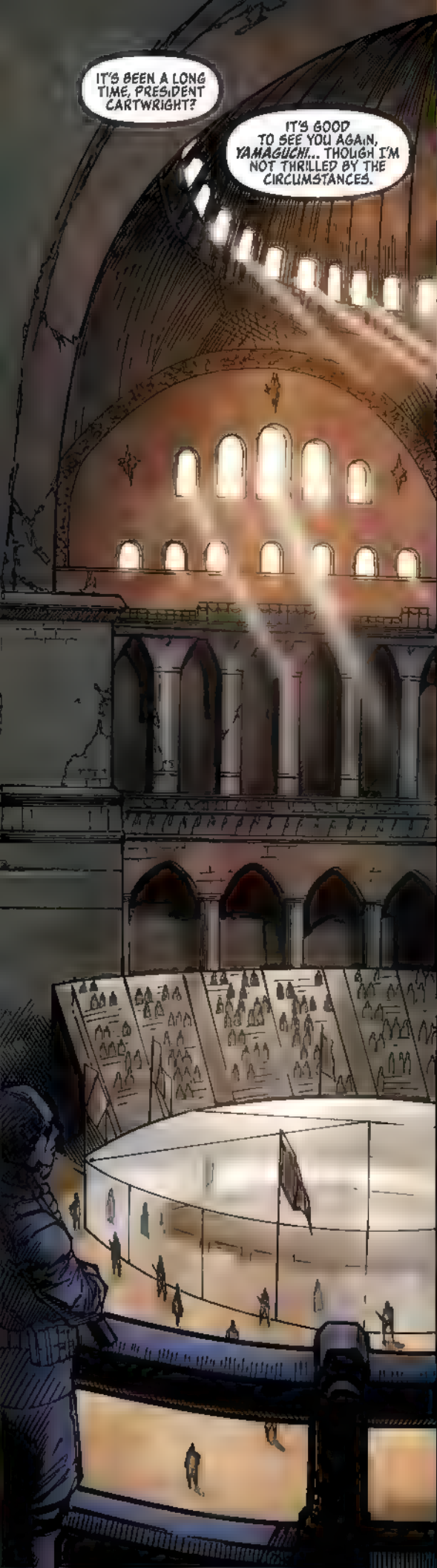


THESE STEPS I AM TAKING WILL FOREVER ALTER THE COURSE OF THE ENTIRE PLANET, MAKING SURE THAT THE BLUE ENDURE AND THAT OUR WAY OF LIFE CAN SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL THE WORLD TO FOLLOW.

VICTOR-1 TURKEY.

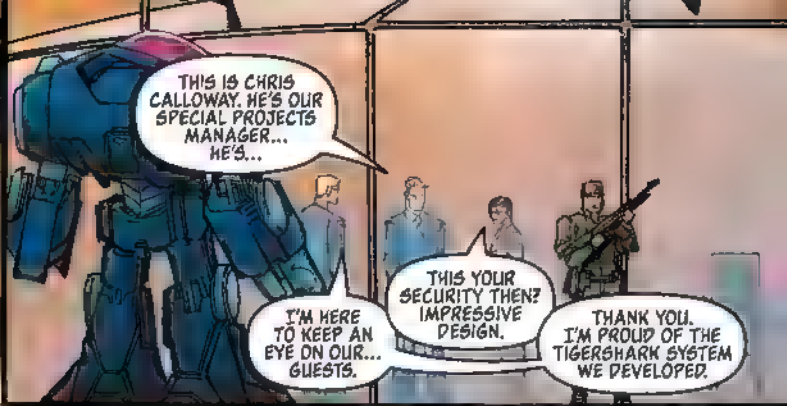
HABLA SOPHIA.





IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, PRESIDENT CARTWRIGHT?

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, YAMAGUCHI... THOUGH I'M NOT THRILLED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

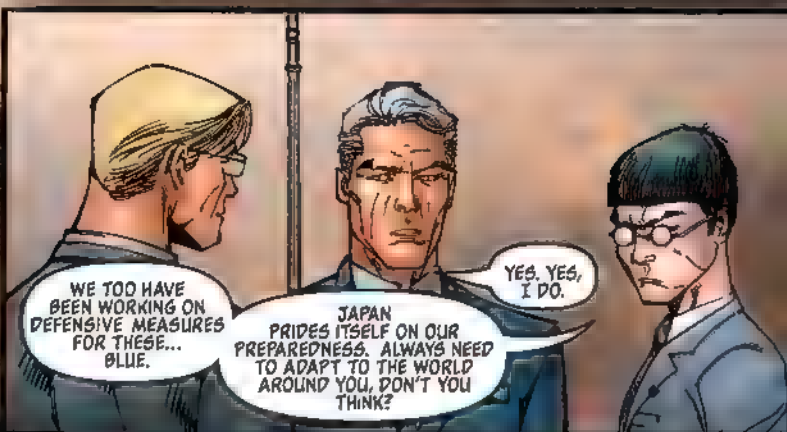


THIS IS CHRIS CALLOWAY. HE'S OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER... HE'S...

I'M HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON OUR... GUESTS.

THIS YOUR SECURITY THEN? IMPRESSIVE DESIGN.

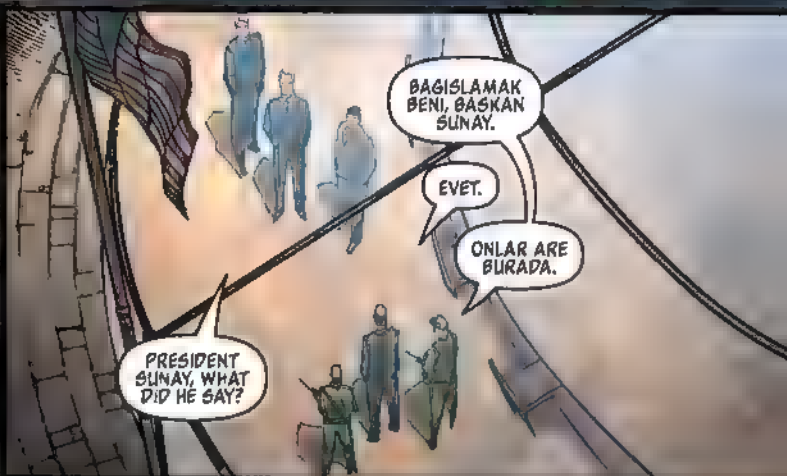
THANK YOU. I'M PROUD OF THE TIGERSHARK SYSTEM WE DEVELOPED.



WE TOO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON DEFENSIVE MEASURES FOR THESE... BLUE.

JAPAN PRIDES ITSELF ON OUR PREPAREDNESS. ALWAYS NEED TO ADAPT TO THE WORLD AROUND YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?

YES. YES, I DO.



BAGISLAMAK BENI, BASKAN SUNAY.

EYET.

ONLAR ARE BURADA.

PRESIDENT SUNAY, WHAT DID HE SAY?



THEY'RE HERE.



HIGH COUNSELOR SIPHON, I AM PRESIDENT CARTWRIGHT FROM THE UNITED STATES. ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR NATIONS, WELCOME TO ISTANBUL.



THANK YOU.

IS IT HALLOWEEN ALREADY?

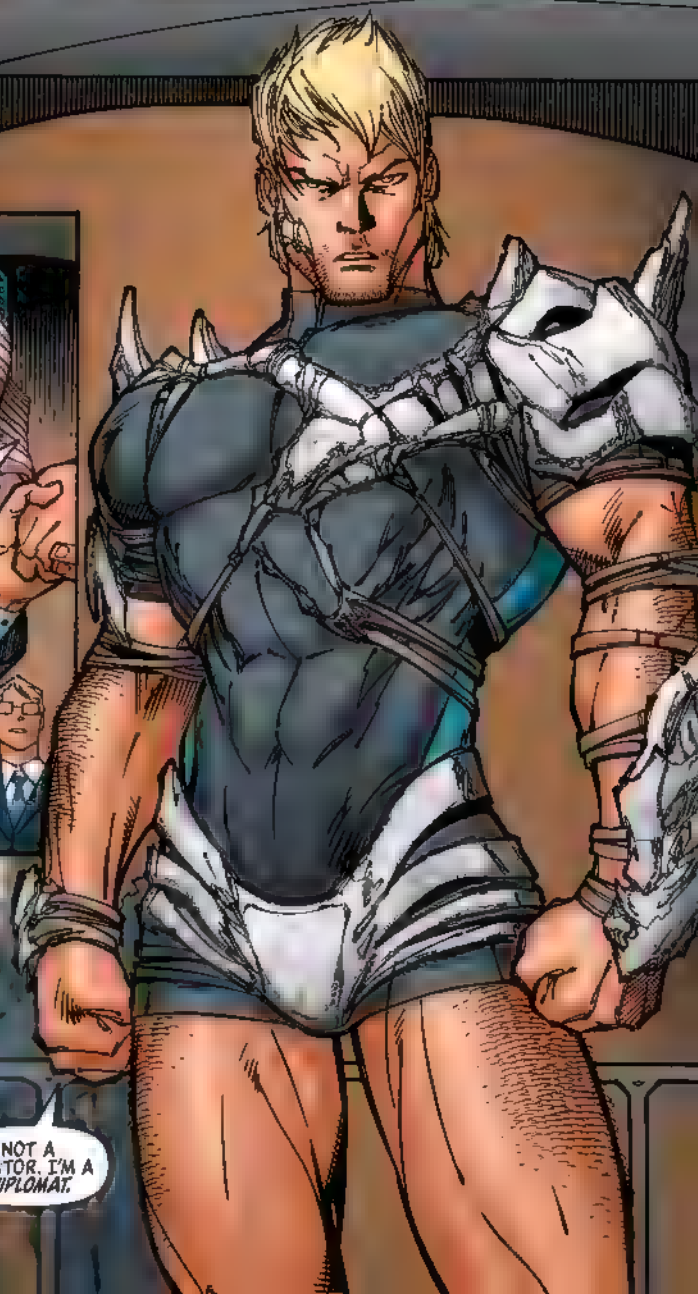
HELLO, CHRIS. FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T MISS THIS.

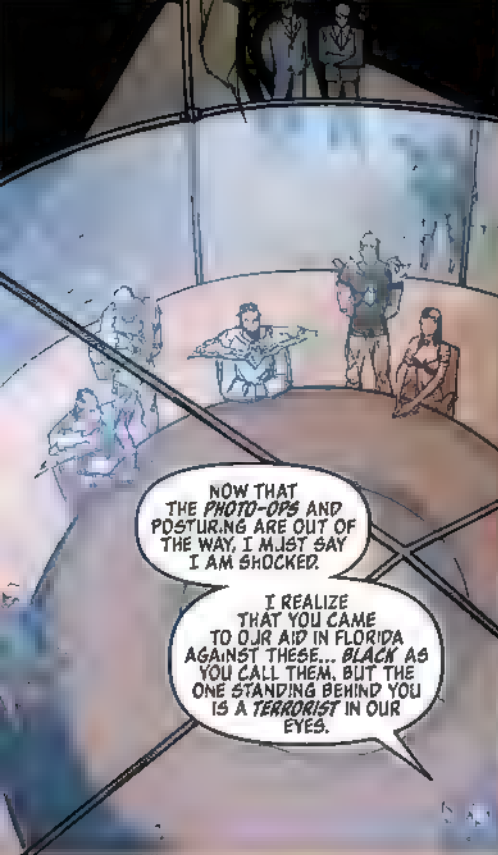
YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT, CHANCE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YES, I KNOW. YOU'RE A TRAITOR.

YOU ALWAYS WANTED ME TO BE MORE THAN SOME HOTSHOT PILOT. NOW, I AM.

NOT A TRAITOR. I'M A DIPLOMAT.



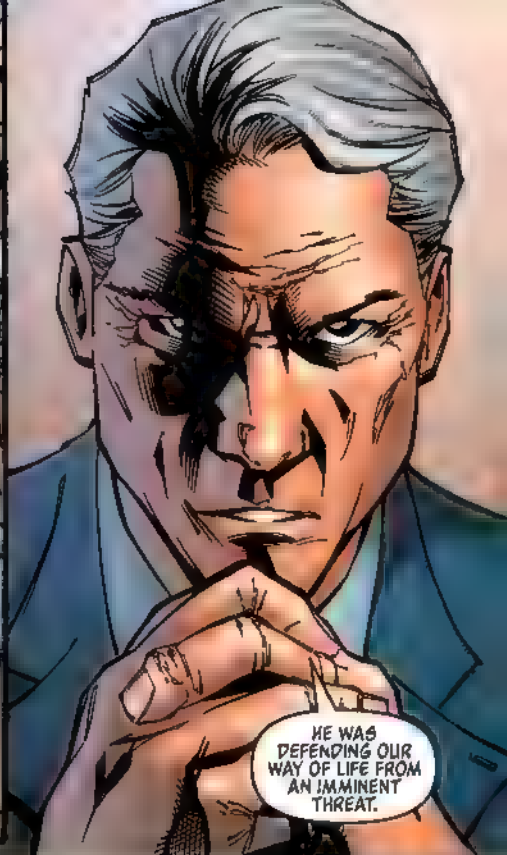


NOW THAT THE PHOTO-OPS AND POSTURING ARE OUT OF THE WAY, I MUST SAY I AM SHOCKED.

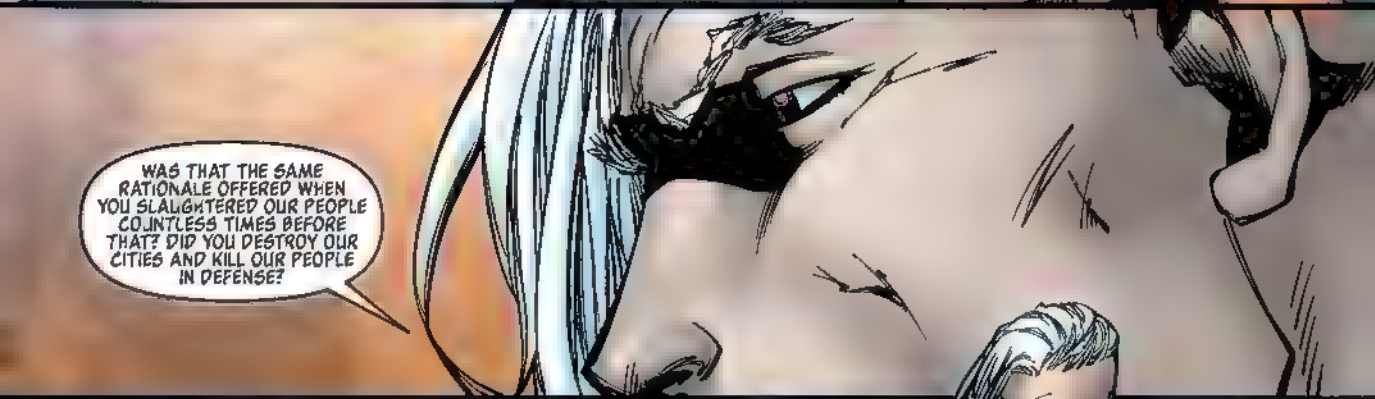
I REALIZE THAT YOU CAME TO OUR AID IN FLORIDA AGAINST THESE... BLACK AS YOU CALL THEM. BUT THE ONE STANDING BEHIND YOU IS A TERRORIST IN OUR EYES.



PRESIDENT CARTWRIGHT, IT IS TRUE THAT KILLIAN HAS OPENLY ATTACKED YOUR COUNTRY, JUST AS ADMIRAL MAYLANDER HAS ATTACKED OUR PEOPLE ON YOUR BEHALF.



HE WAS DEFENDING OUR WAY OF LIFE FROM AN IMMINENT THREAT.



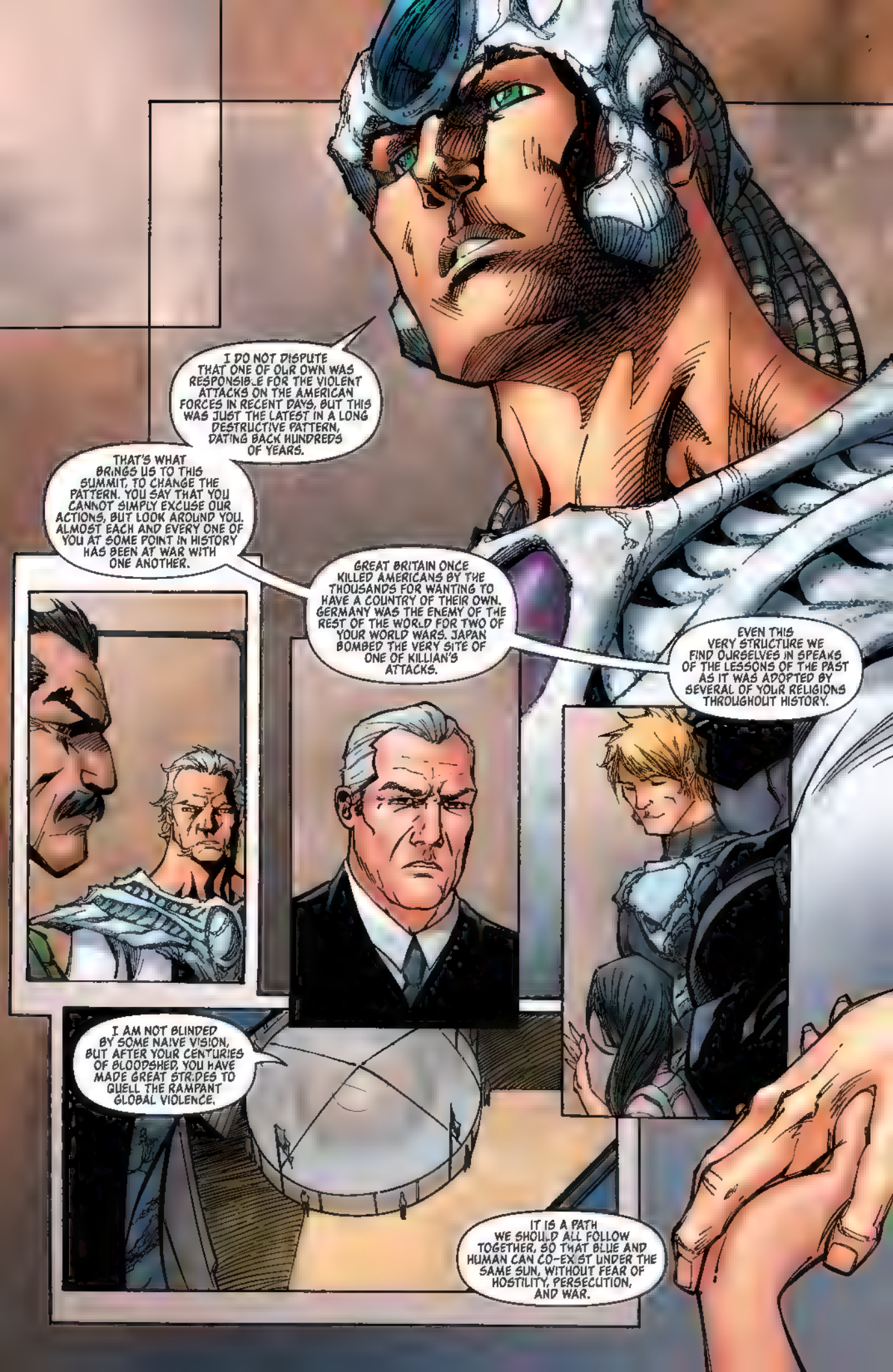
WAS THAT THE SAME RATIONALE OFFERED WHEN YOU SLAUGHTERED OUR PEOPLE COUNTLESS TIMES BEFORE THAT? DID YOU DESTROY OUR CITIES AND KILL OUR PEOPLE IN DEFENSE?



ENOUGH. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE ALL COME HERE. THIS WAR BETWEEN US MUST STOP, OR IT WILL BE THE END FOR US ALL.

IS THAT A THREAT?

NO, IT IS A REALITY.

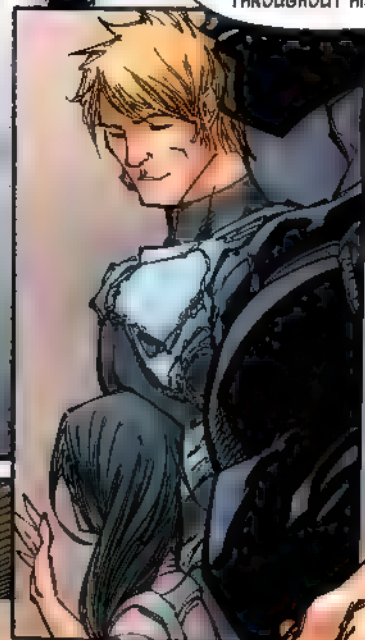


I DO NOT DISPUTE THAT ONE OF OUR OWN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENT ATTACKS ON THE AMERICAN FORCES IN RECENT DAYS, BUT THIS WAS JUST THE LATEST IN A LONG DESTRUCTIVE PATTERN, DATING BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

THAT'S WHAT BRINGS US TO THIS SUMMIT, TO CHANGE THE PATTERN. YOU SAY THAT YOU CANNOT SIMPLY EXCUSE OUR ACTIONS, BUT LOOK AROUND YOU. ALMOST EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU AT SOME POINT IN HISTORY HAS BEEN AT WAR WITH ONE ANOTHER.

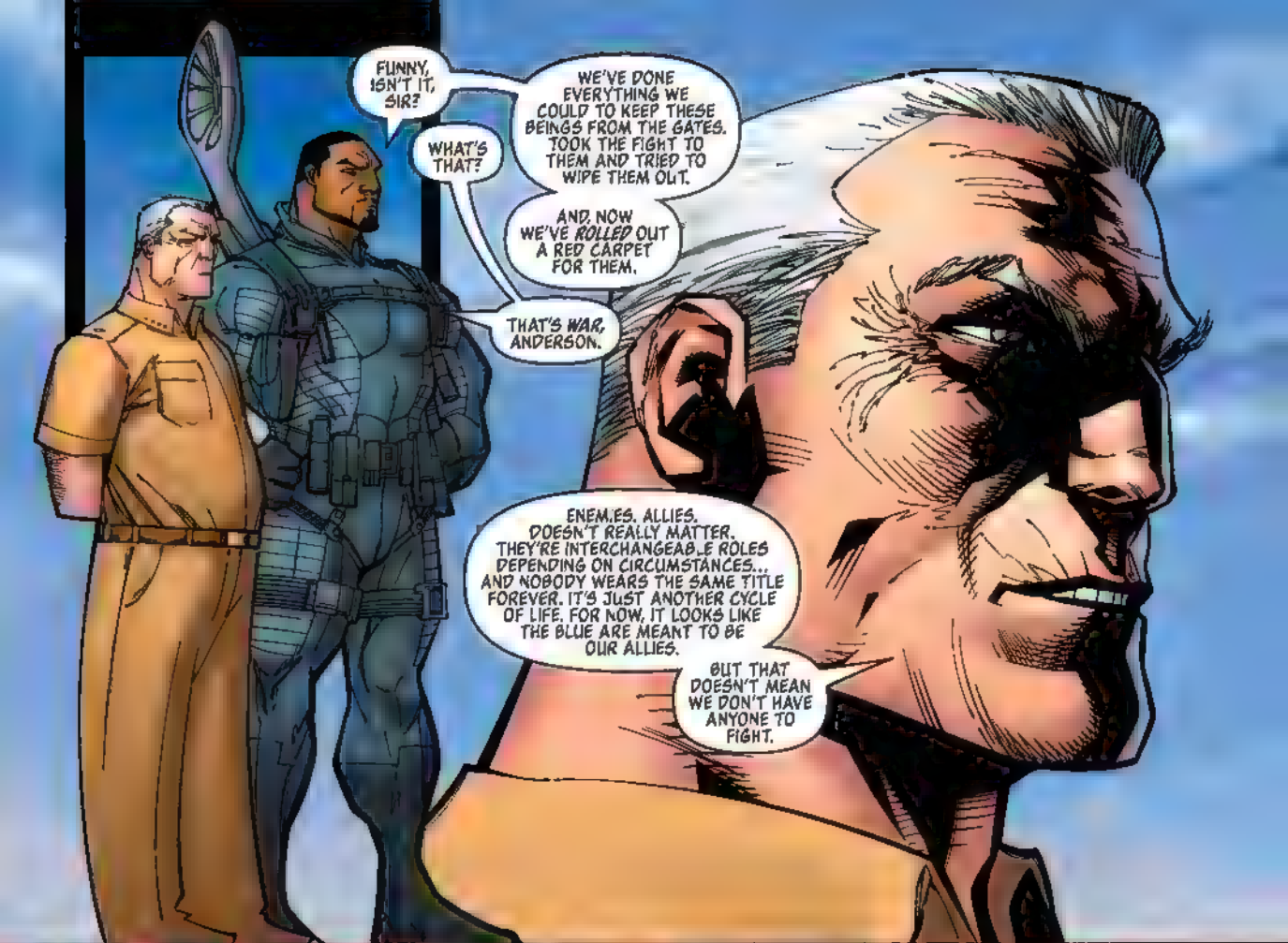
GREAT BRITAIN ONCE KILLED AMERICANS BY THE THOUSANDS FOR WANTING TO HAVE A COUNTRY OF THEIR OWN. GERMANY WAS THE ENEMY OF THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR TWO OF YOUR WORLD WARS. JAPAN BOMBED THE VERY SITE OF ONE OF KILLIAN'S ATTACKS.

EVEN THIS VERY STRUCTURE WE FIND OURSELVES IN SPEAKS OF THE LESSONS OF THE PAST AS IT WAS ADOPTED BY SEVERAL OF YOUR RELIGIONS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.



I AM NOT BLINDED BY SOME NAIVE VISION, BUT AFTER YOUR CENTURIES OF BLOODSHED, YOU HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES TO QUELL THE RAMPANT GLOBAL VIOLENCE.

IT IS A PATH WE SHOULD ALL FOLLOW TOGETHER, SO THAT BLUE AND HUMAN CAN CO-EXIST UNDER THE SAME SUN, WITHOUT FEAR OF HOSTILITY, PERSECUTION, AND WAR.



FUNNY,
ISN'T IT,
SIR?

WHAT'S
THAT?

WE'VE DONE
EVERYTHING WE
COULD TO KEEP THESE
BEINGS FROM THE GATES.
TOOK THE FIGHT TO
THEM AND TRIED TO
WIPE THEM OUT.

AND, NOW
WE'VE ROLLED OUT
A RED CARPET
FOR THEM.

THAT'S WAR,
ANDERSON.

ENEMIES, ALLIES.
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
THEY'RE INTERCHANGEABLE ROLES
DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES...
AND NOBODY WEARS THE SAME TITLE
FOREVER. IT'S JUST ANOTHER CYCLE
OF LIFE. FOR NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE
THE BLUE ARE MEANT TO BE
OUR ALLIES.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
WE DON'T HAVE
ANYONE TO
FIGHT.



ADMIRAL...
PICKING UP SIGNALS
TOO SMALL TO BE
VESSELS, THOUGH.
PROBABLY JUST
BIOLOGICAL.

NOT JUST ANY
BIOLOGICAL...

...THE
BLACK.



THE

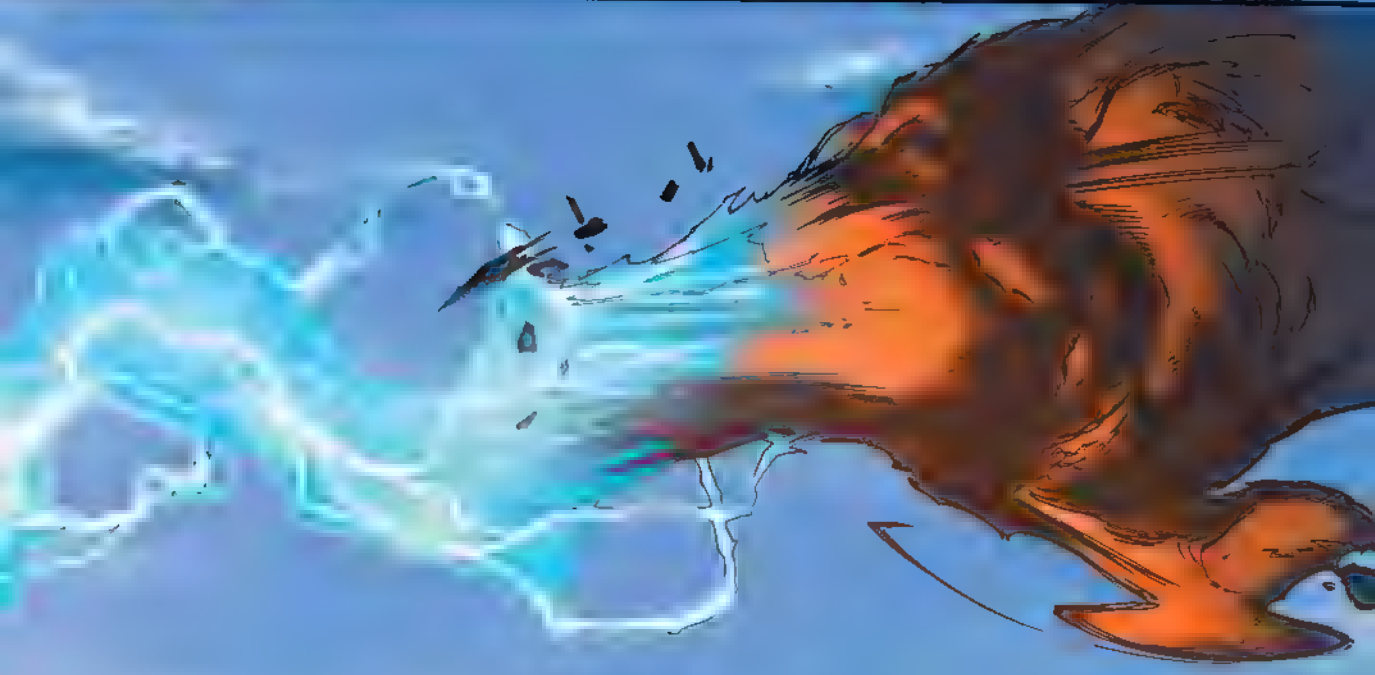
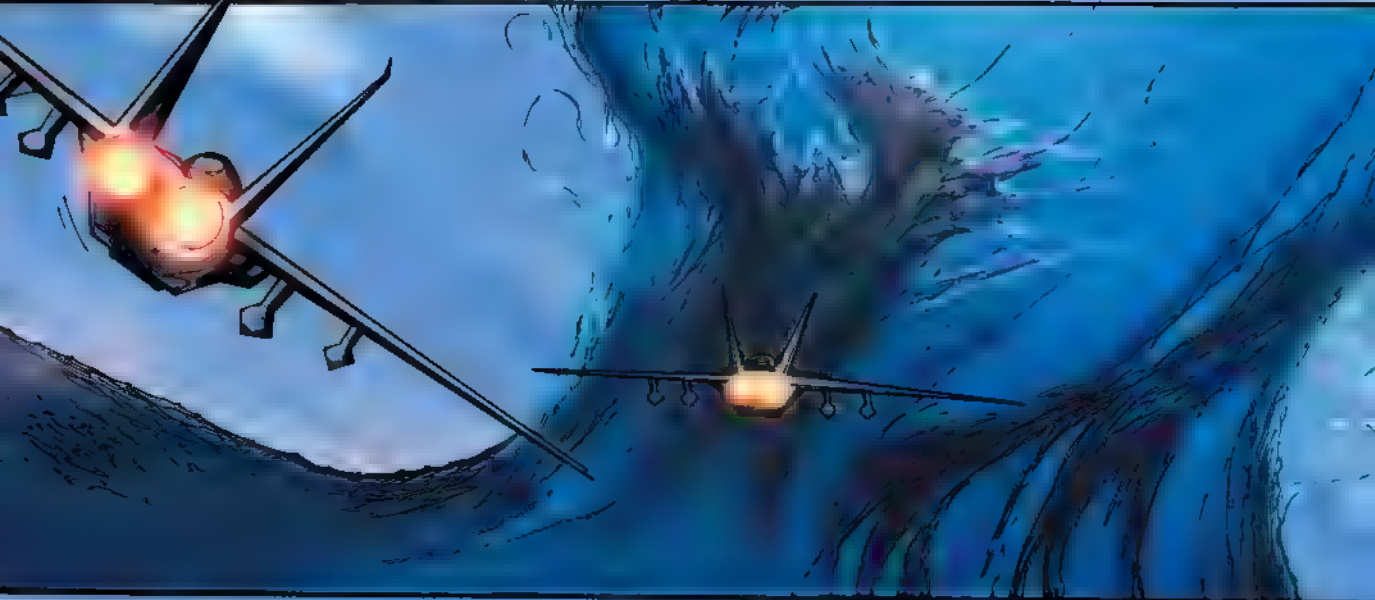
THE CRIMES
TRUTH
NEVER FORGOTTEN

WATER COVERS THE GLOBE,
TOUCHING EVERY LIVING
CREATURE ON THIS PLANET.
TODAY, YOU SHALL SEE ITS
TOUCH AND FEEL MORE

BUT THIS TIME, THE
WATER WILL NOT BE
A LOVING EMBRACE

IT WILL BE
A HAMMER

AND IT SHALL
DESTROY
EVERYTHING





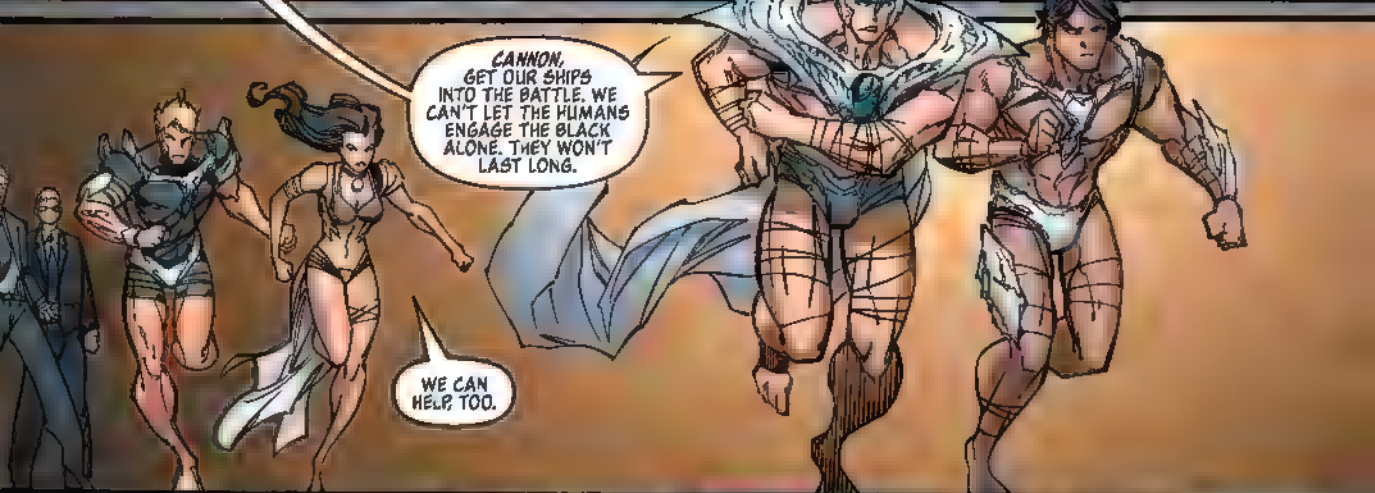
THE
BLACK?

WE'RE NOT
SURE, SIR. THEY
JUST CAME OUT
OF NOWHERE.



MR.
PRESIDENT, WE
NEED TO GET YOU
CLEAR, NOW.

WE HAVE
TO GET OUT
THERE AND HELP.
THE HUMANS WON'T
STAND A CHANCE
WITHOUT US.



CANNON,
GET OUR SHIPS
INTO THE BATTLE. WE
CAN'T LET THE HUMANS
ENGAGE THE BLACK
ALONE. THEY WON'T
LAST LONG.

WE CAN
HELP TOO.



SO, THIS
IS IT...

MY GOR..



THIS IS
WHAT THE END
OF THE WORLD
LOOKS LIKE.

TO BE
CONTINUED...

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#8

OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



Volume Three
Issue Eight of Ten

FATHOM

J.T. KRUL
STORY

STORY

ALÉ GARZA
pencils

pencils

SAL REGAL
banks

anks

JOHN STARR
Colors

color

JOSH REED
letter

etter

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STEPHANIE MATTHE	CHRISTOPHER	JOHN REND	MARK ROMAN	

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 3 Issue 8

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THIS IS MY HOME.
MY WORLD.

MY PLANET
IN FEEL.

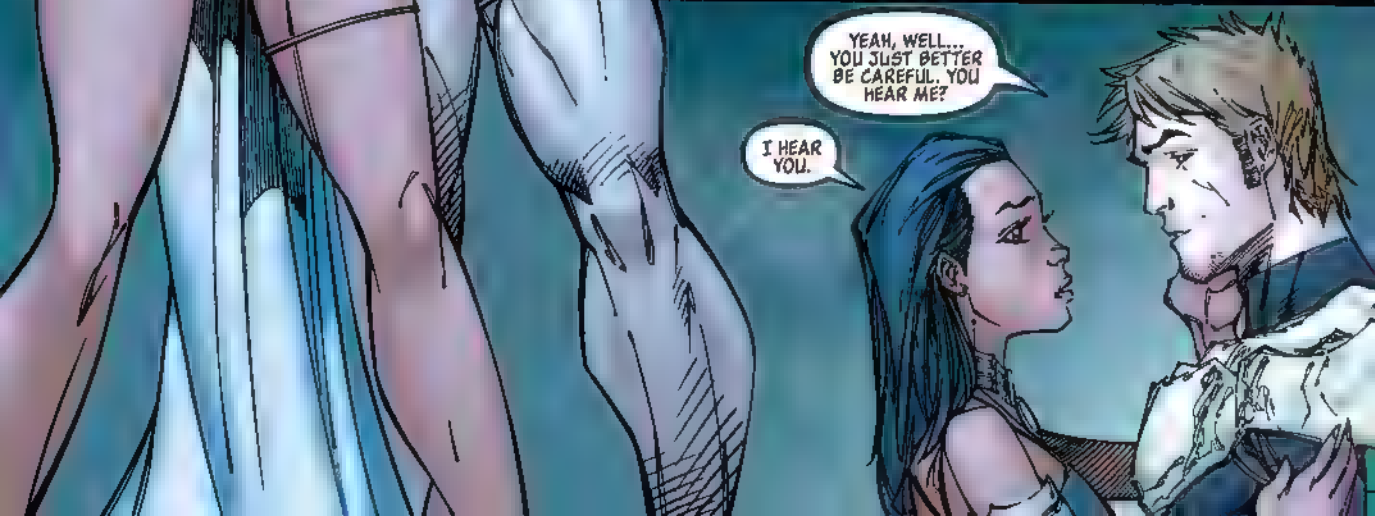
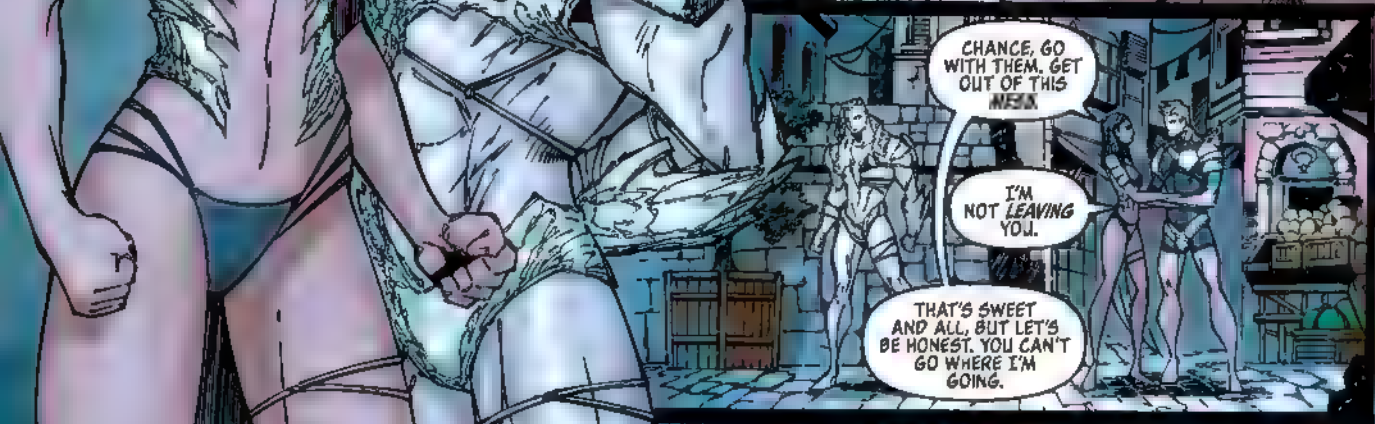
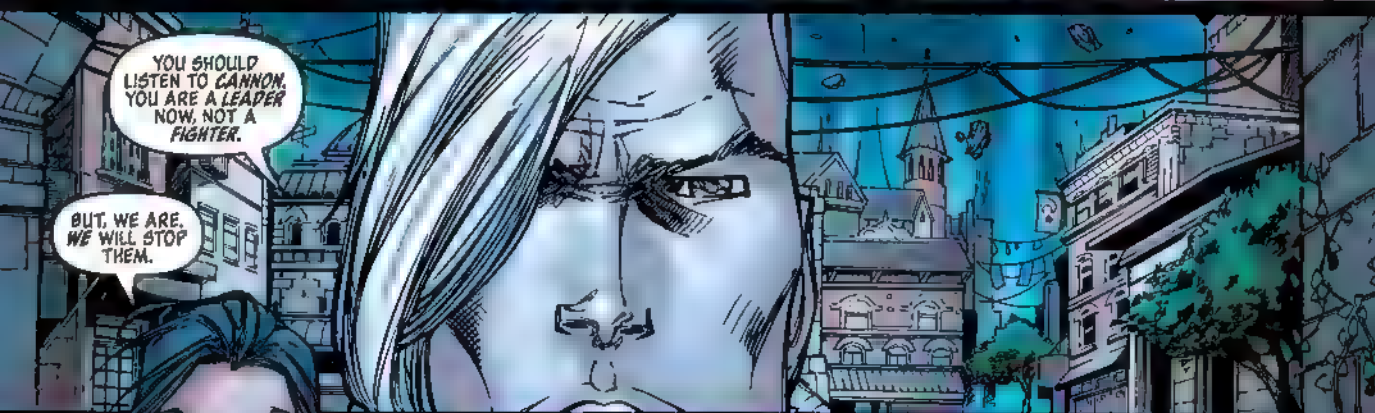
I WAS RAISED AMONG
THE HUMANS, BUT I
AM NOT ONE OF THEM.
NOT REALLY.

I AM A MEMBER OF
THE BLUE—A RACE
OF BEINGS WHO CALL
THE BOTTOM OF THE
OCEAN THEIR HOME.

BUT, I AM ALSO
PART OF THE BLACK.

IT SEEMS LIKE I AM CONSTANTLY
FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THESE
CONFLICTING WORLDS. ALWAYS
SIDING AGAINST DESTRUCTION.

...WHICH FOR NOW
MEANS THE BLACK
MUST BE STOPPED
BEFORE THEY
ANNIHILATE THE
ENTIRE PLANET.







BE CAUTIOUS, ASPEN. YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE BLACK, BUT THEIR POWER IS IMMEASURABLE.

I KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK, KILLIAN. THEIR LEADER, RAHGER, IS MY FATHER.

YOUR FATHER? THEN THAT WOULD MAKE YOU...



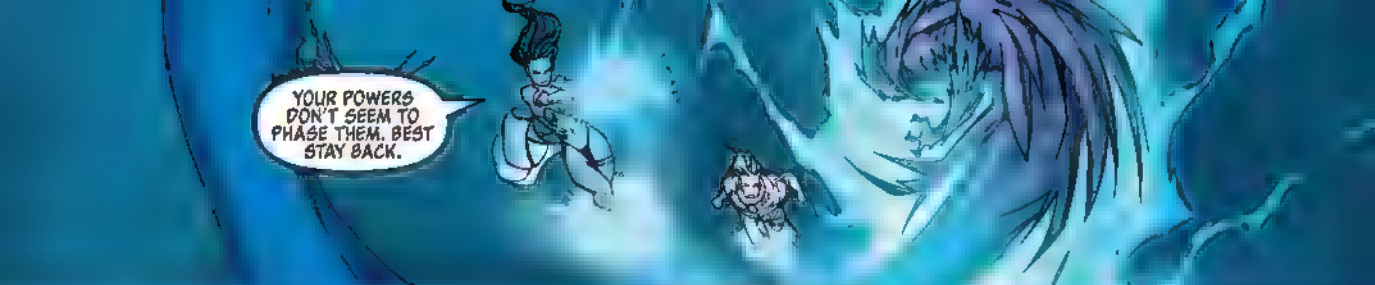
YES I AM THE BLACK.



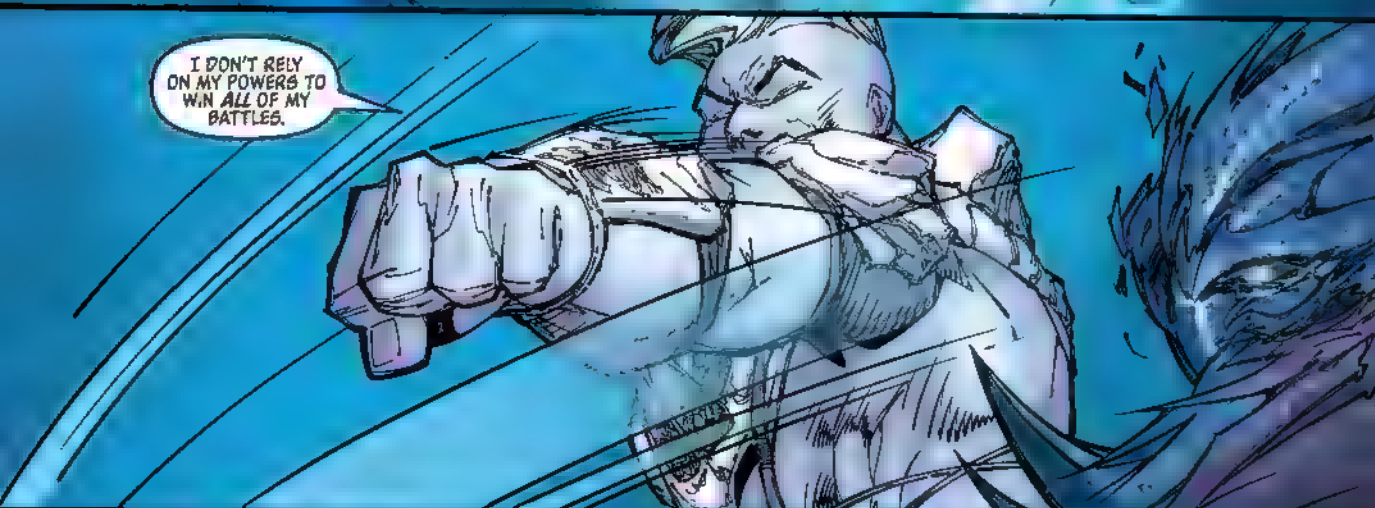
THEN MAYBE YOU CAN REASON WITH THEM.



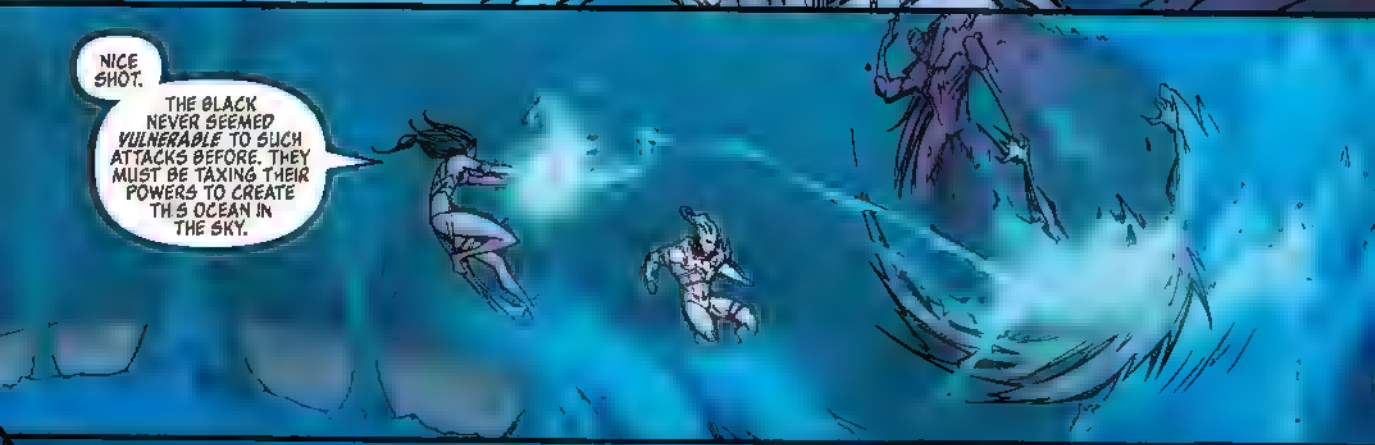
LOOK AROUND, KILLIAN. ALL REASON IS LOST.



YOUR POWERS
DON'T SEEM TO
PHASE THEM. BEST
STAY BACK.



I DON'T RELY
ON MY POWERS TO
WIN ALL OF MY
BATTLES.

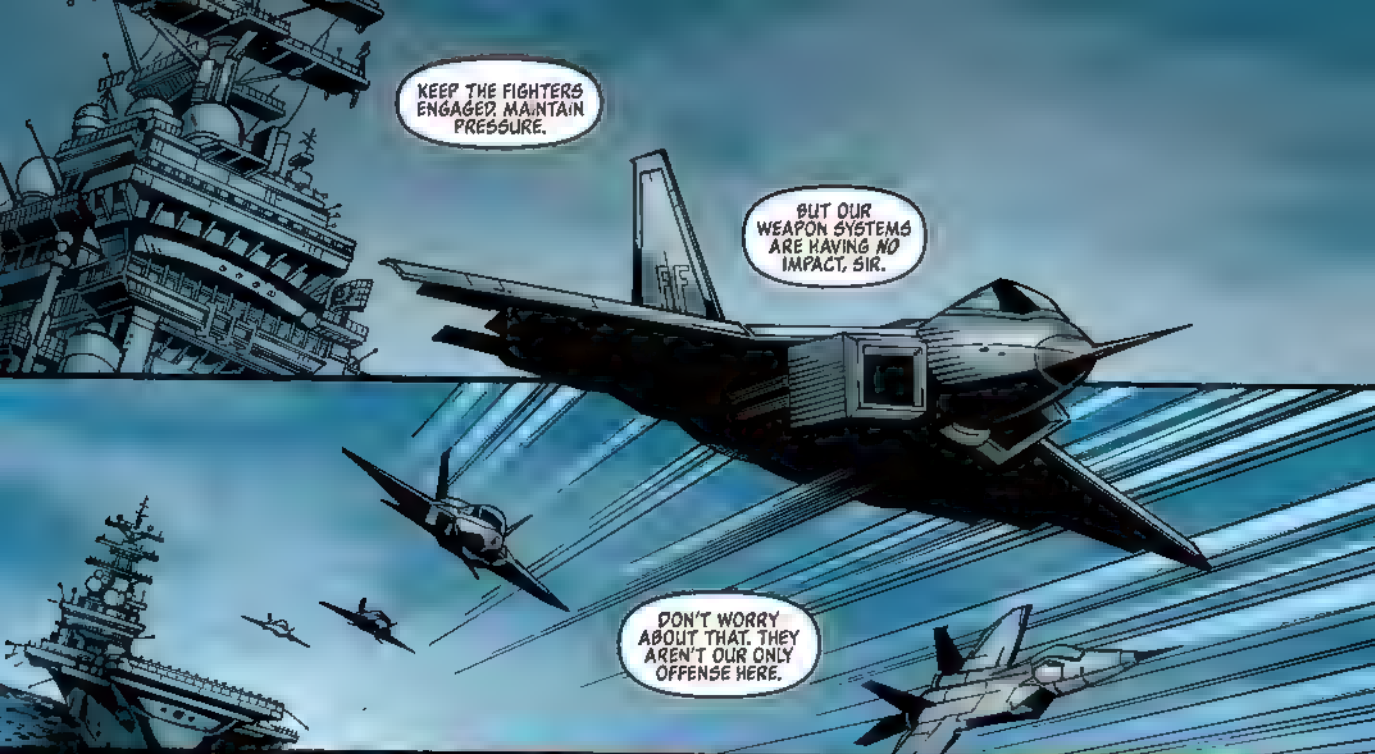


NICE
SHOT.

THE BLACK
NEVER SEEMED
VULNERABLE TO SUCH
ATTACKS BEFORE. THEY
MUST BE TAXING THEIR
POWERS TO CREATE
THIS OCEAN IN
THE SKY.



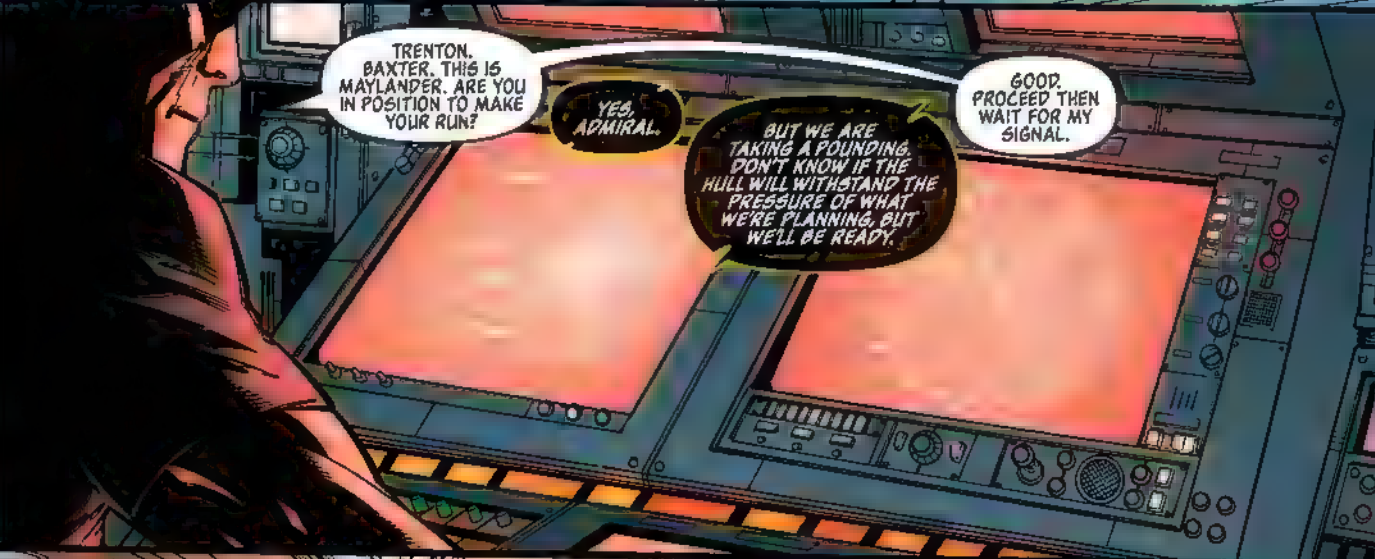
MAYBE, THE
SITUATION ISN'T
AS HOPELESS AS
IT APPEARS.



KEEP THE FIGHTERS
ENGAGED. MAINTAIN
PRESSURE.

BUT OUR
WEAPON SYSTEMS
ARE HAVING NO
IMPACT, SIR.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT. THEY
AREN'T OUR ONLY
OFFENSE HERE.

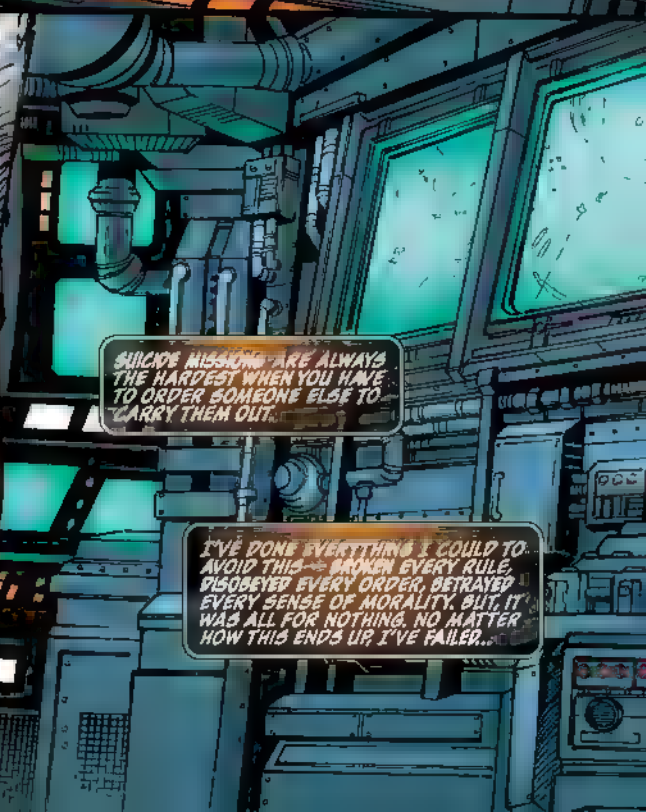
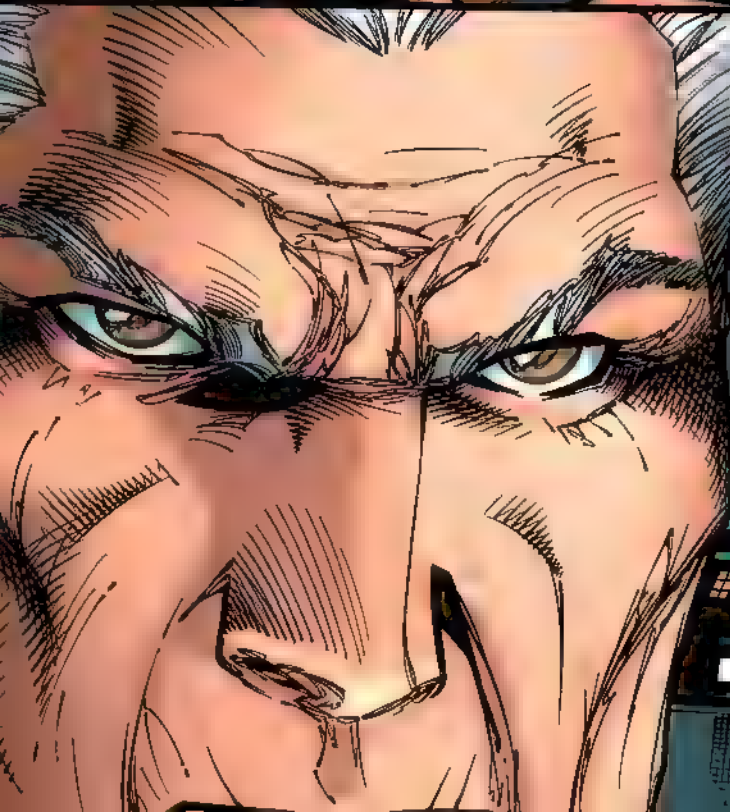


TRENTON.
BAXTER. THIS IS
MAYLANDER. ARE YOU
IN POSITION TO MAKE
YOUR RUN?

YES,
ADMIRAL.

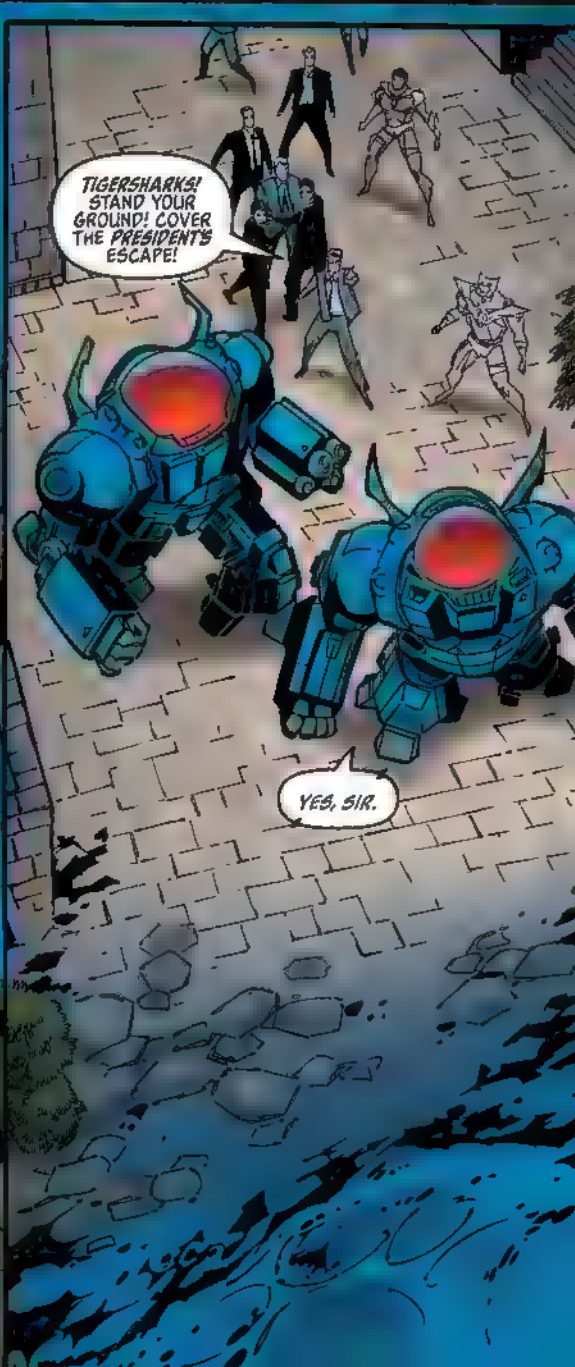
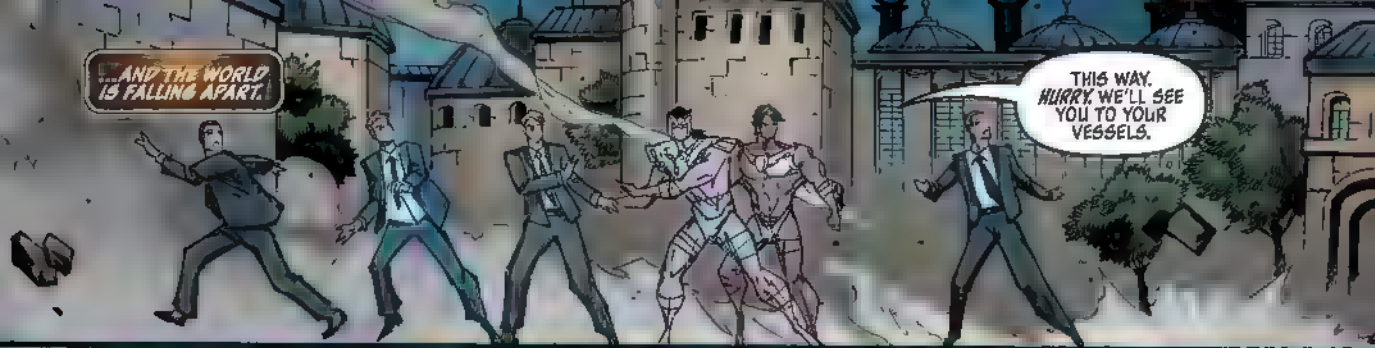
BUT WE ARE
TAKING A POUNDING.
DON'T KNOW IF THE
HULL WILL WITHSTAND THE
PRESSURE OF WHAT
WE'RE PLANNING, BUT
WE'LL BE READY.

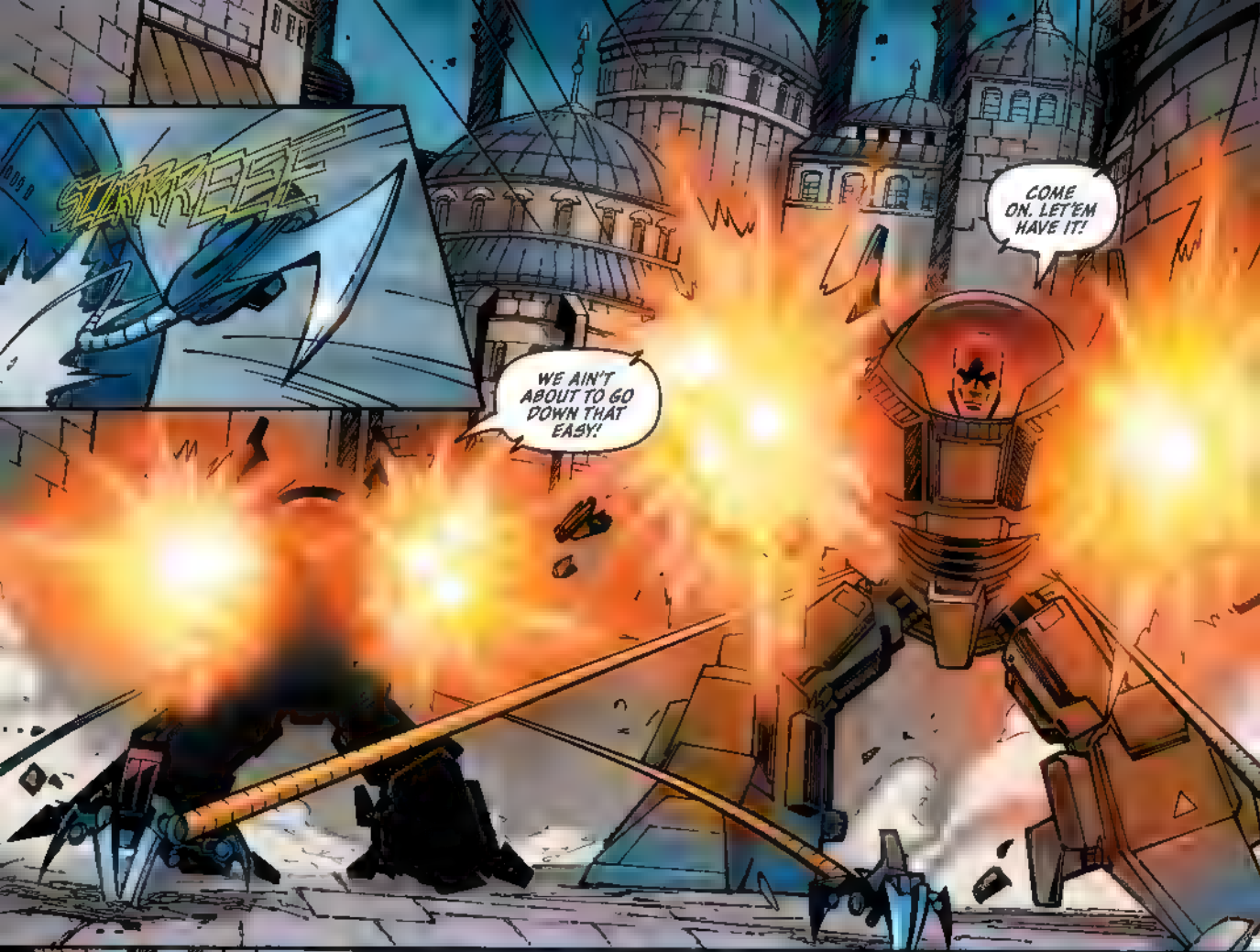
GOOD.
PROCEED THEN
WAIT FOR MY
SIGNAL.

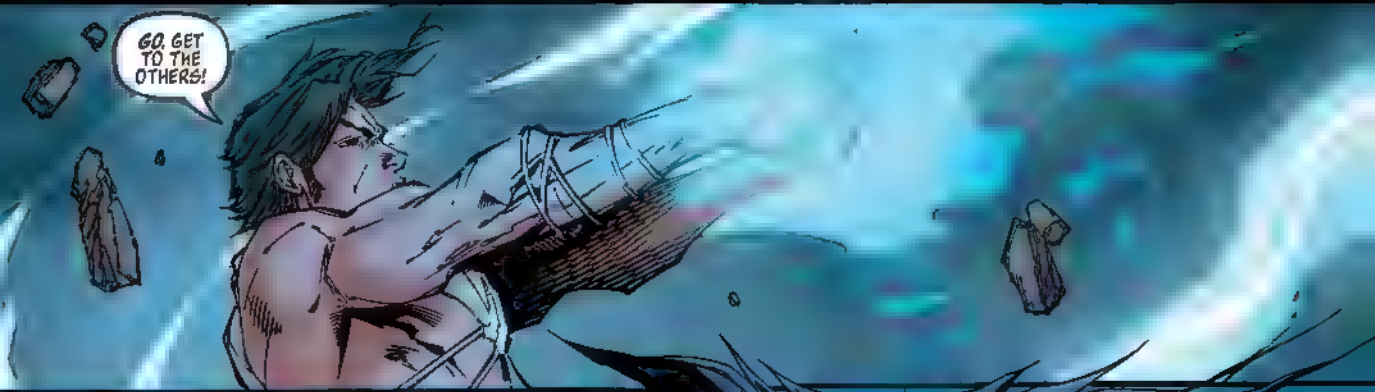


SUICIDE MISSIONS ARE ALWAYS
THE HARDEST WHEN YOU HAVE
TO ORDER SOMEONE ELSE TO
CARRY THEM OUT.

I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I COULD TO
AVOID THIS—BROKEN EVERY RULE,
DISOBEYED EVERY ORDER, BETRAYED
EVERY SENSE OF MORALITY. BUT, IT
WAS ALL FOR NOTHING. NO MATTER
HOW THIS ENDS UP, I'VE FAILED.









I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO
GET THE WATER BACK
DOWN OUT OF THE SKY.

BUT MAYBE, I CAN
STOP THE BLACK
FROM FEEDING MORE
WATER INTO...

THE CURRENT IS
INCREDIBLE, BUT
I DON'T HAVE
TO STOP...

...I ONLY NEED
TO REDIRECT IT.



I HAD SUCH HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, CHILD.

RANGER!

PITY THAT YOU CONTINUE TO DENY YOUR TRUE PLACE IN THIS WORLD. YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT STOP THE INEVITABLE.

YOU CAN ONLY BE OVERWHELMED BY ITS POWER.



AAAAHHHHH!!!

THE PAIN IS UNBEARABLE.

I CAN FEEL MY BODY...
MY VERY ESSENCE...
SLIPPING AWAY.

BUT I CAN'T GIVE
UP I WON'T.

YOU CLAIM TO BE
SO MUCH MORE EVOLVED
THAN THE HUMANS...
BEYOND THEIR
PETTINESS.

BUT, LOOK AT
YOU. ALL YOUR
POWER. ALL YOUR
MIGHT.

AND ALL YOU KNOW
HOW TO DO IS DESTROY
YOU ARE JUST AS SLOW TO
LEARN AS THE REST OF THE
WORLD. VIOLENCE BREEDS
ONLY ONE THING.

MORE
VIOLENCE!



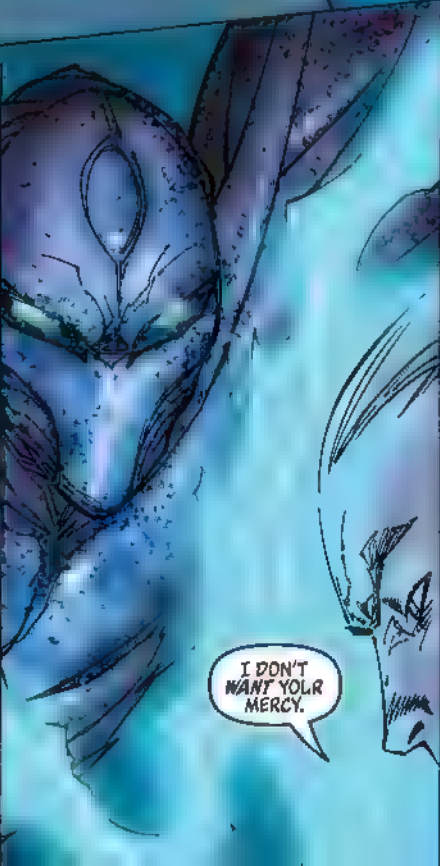
YOUR POWER
FAR EXCEEDS
MY OWN.



DO NOT
TOY WITH
ME.



IF YOU MEAN
TO KILL ME, THEN
GO AHEAD WITH IT
ALREADY.



I DON'T
WANT YOUR
MERCY.



YOU ALWAYS
WERE STUBBORN,
- KILLIAN -

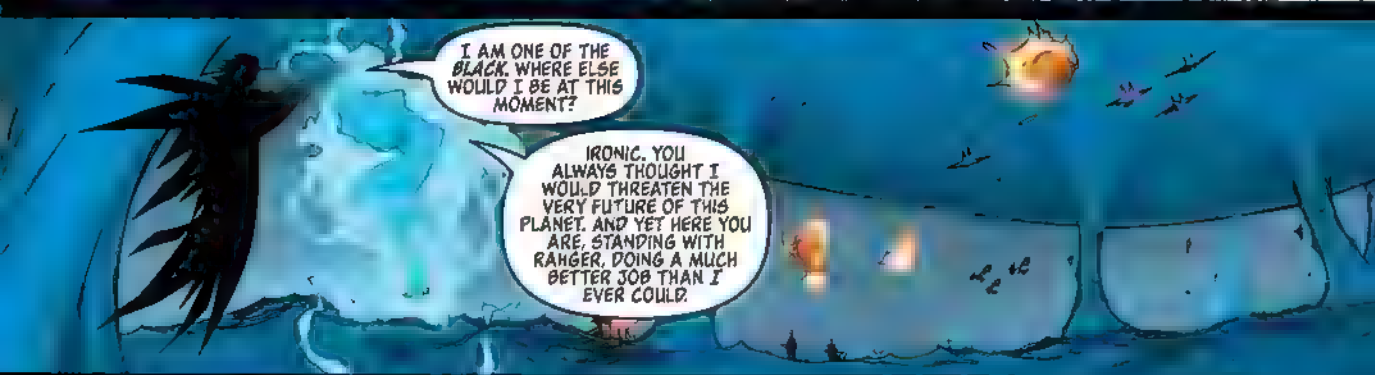
I... I
RECOGNIZE
YOUR VOICE.



PERHAPS YOU
WILL RECOGNIZE THE
FACE, AS WELL.



CASQUERY
I SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN YOU WOULD
BE HERE.



I AM ONE OF THE
BLACK. WHERE ELSE
WOULD I BE AT THIS
MOMENT?

IRONIC. YOU
ALWAYS THOUGHT I
WOULD THREATEN THE
VERY FUTURE OF THIS
PLANET. AND YET HERE YOU
ARE, STANDING WITH
RANGER, DOING A MUCH
BETTER JOB THAN I
EVER COULD.



IT SEEMS THAT
YOU ARE THE TRUE
DESTROYERS.



I NEVER
ENVISIONED THIS FOR
US. WE HAVE TRAVELED FAR
FROM OUR HOME AND EVEN
FURTHER AWAY FROM
WHO WE ARE.





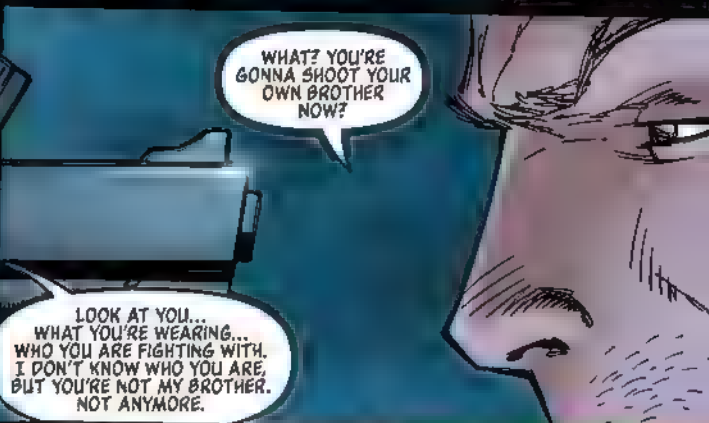


YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH... ARE YOU INSANE???

MAYBE. OR MAYBE I'M THE ONLY SANE ONE, CHANCE.



THE ONLY ONE WHO RECOGNIZES AN ENEMY WHEN HE SEES ONE.



WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT YOUR OWN BROTHER NOW?

LOOK AT YOU... WHAT YOU'RE WEARING... WHO YOU ARE FIGHTING WITH. I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU'RE NOT MY BROTHER. NOT ANYMORE.



NO... NO... NO.



IT'S POINTLESS,
SIPHON. YOU CANNOT
SAVE THESE
HUMANS.



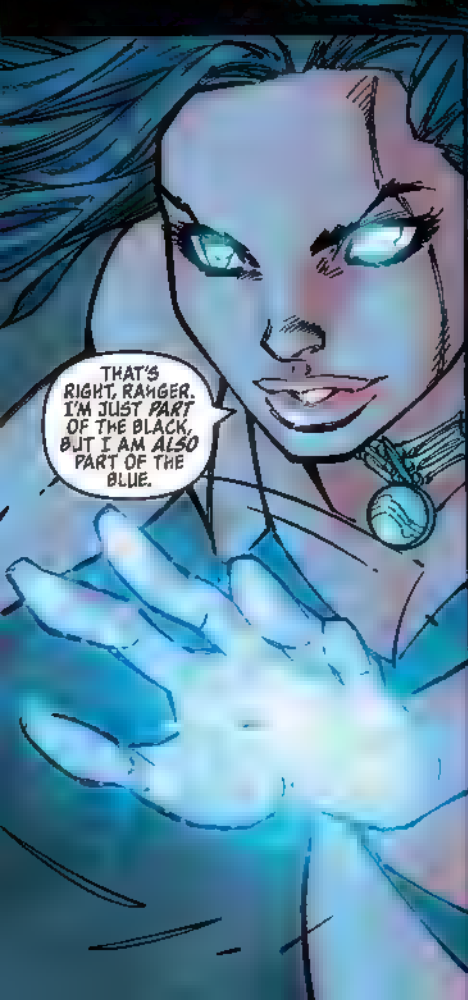
KIANI, YOU
CAN'T DO THIS! THIS
IS NO TIME TO FOCUS
ON YOUR PERSONAL
GRIEVANCES.

TELL
THAT TO
BRANDE.

DAMN YOU!
NOBODY M.SSES
BRANDE MORE THAN ME,
BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT
CHOOSING BETWEEN
THE BLUE AND THE
HUMANS.

I GUESS I JUST
CARE MORE ABOUT
THE HUMANS DYING
THAN WHETHER OR
NOT I LIVE.

NO MORE
SPEECHES.
TIME TO SPILL
BLOOD!





AND, IT'S
ABOUT TIME YOU
FOUND THAT
OUT.

To Be
CONTINUED.

ASPEN
Vol. 3

#9
OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM

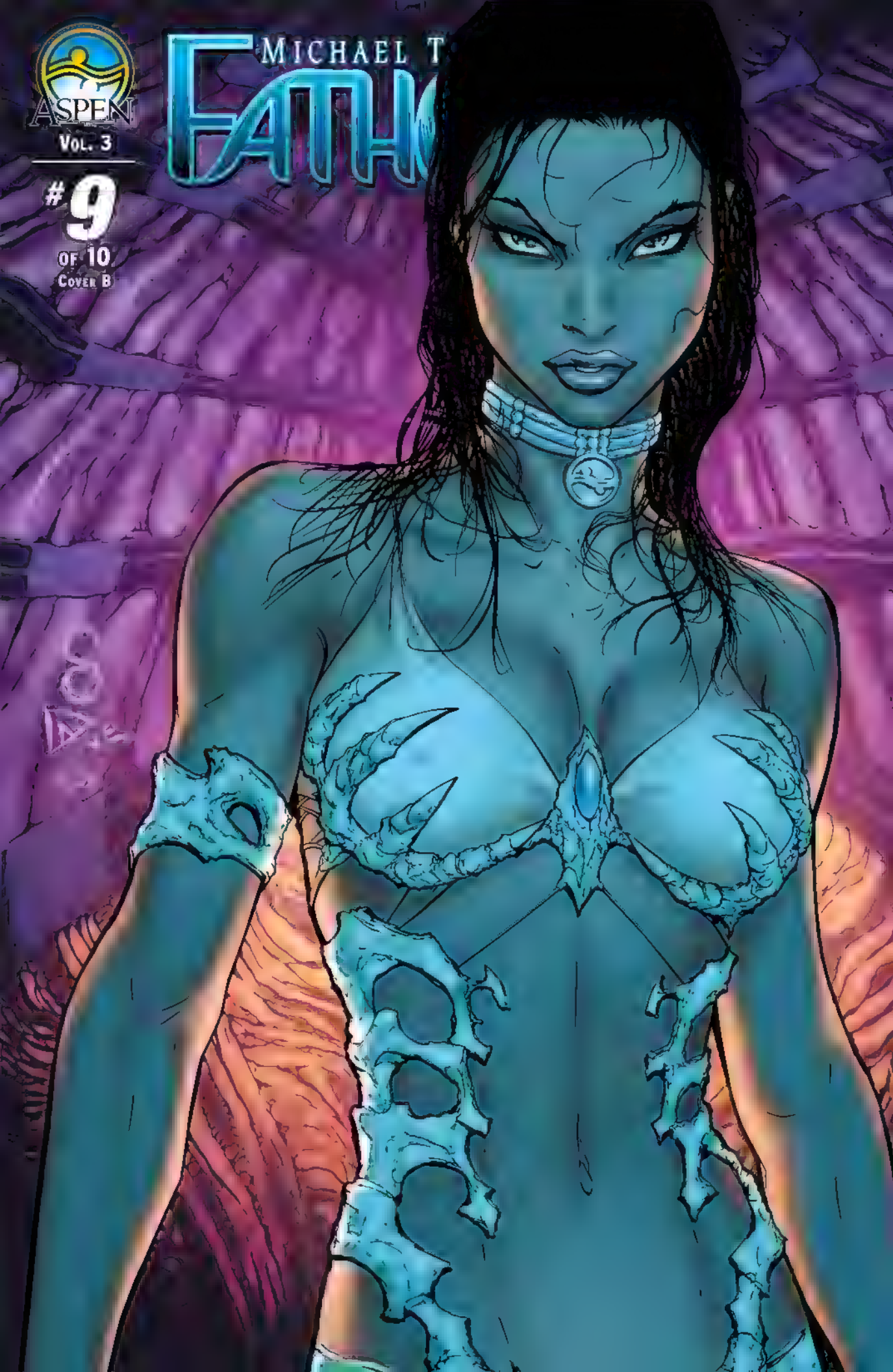




MICHAEL T.
FATHOM

#**9**

OF 10
COVER B



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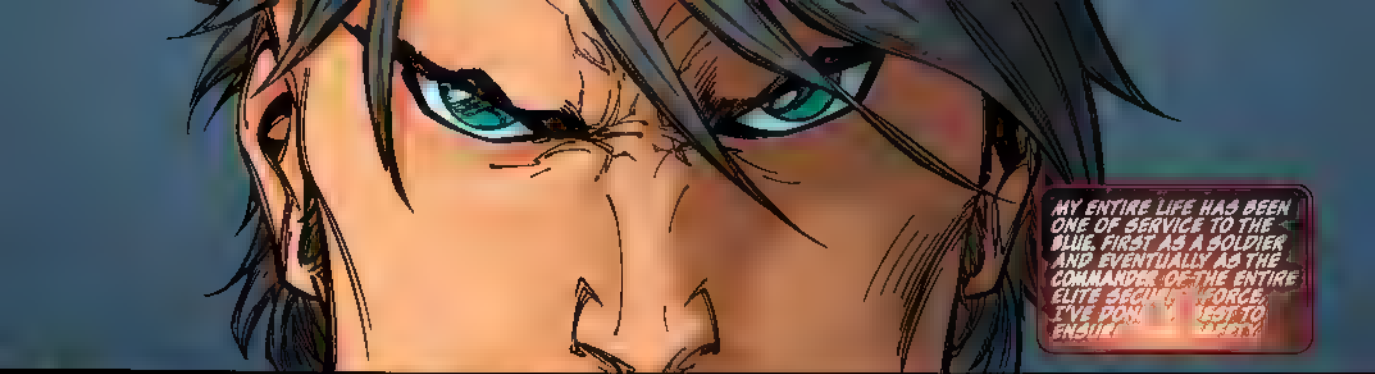
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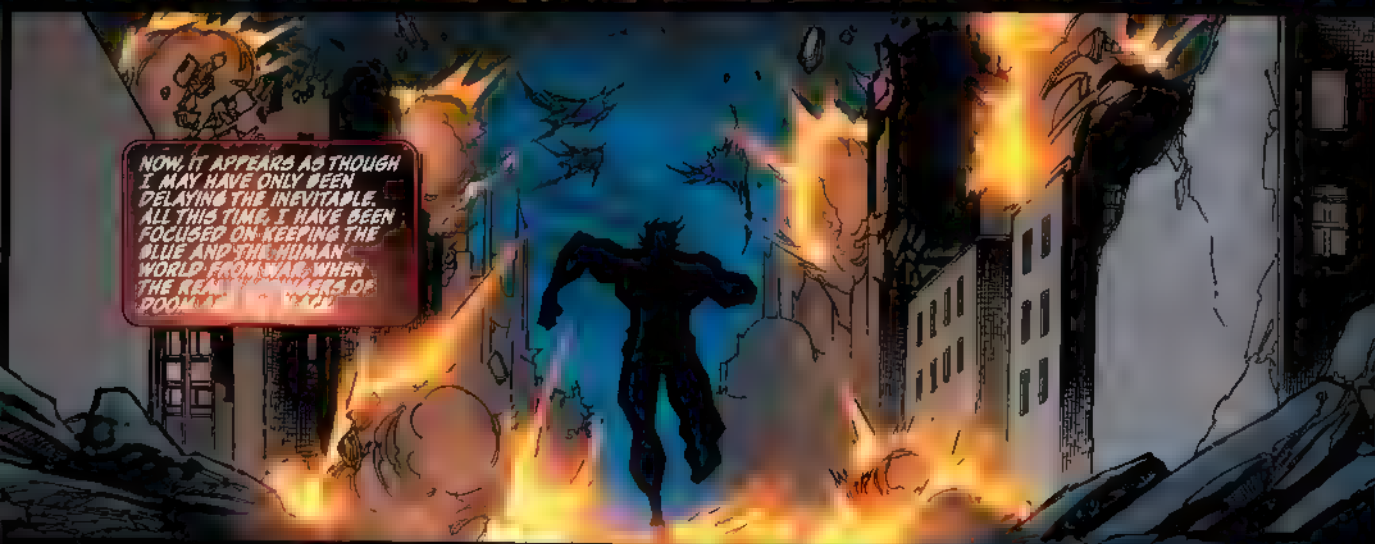
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MY ENTIRE LIFE HAS BEEN ONE OF SERVICE TO THE BLUE. FIRST AS A SOLDIER AND EVENTUALLY AS THE COMMANDER OF THE ENTIRE ELITE SECURITY FORCE. I'VE DONE MY BEST TO ENSURE THE SAFETY

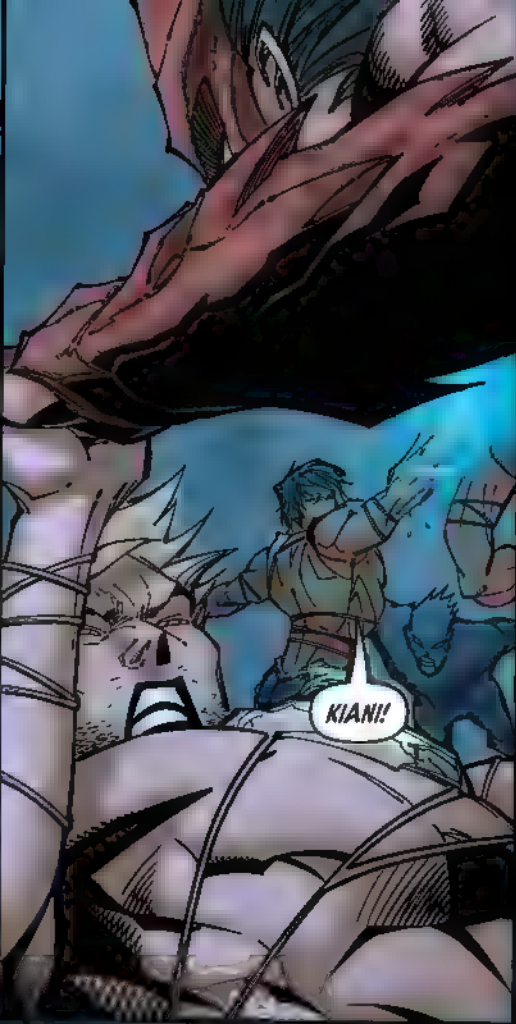


NOW, IT APPEARS AS THOUGH I MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN DELAYING THE INEVITABLE. ALL THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON KEEPING THE BLUE AND THE HUMAN WORLD FROM WAR, WHEN THE REAL DANGERS OF DOOM ARE HERE.



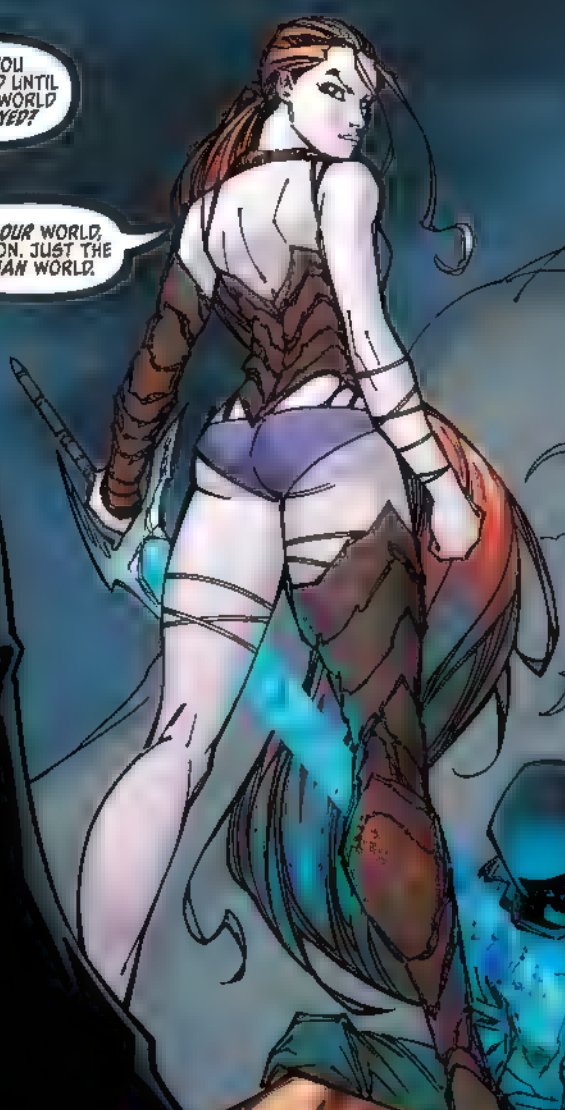
IF THIS IS TO BE OUR FINAL HOUR, AT LEAST IT HAS BROUGHT OUR TWO WORLDS TOGETHER. MY ENEMY IS BECOMING MY





WON'T YOU
BE SATISFIED UNTIL
THE ENTIRE WORLD
IS DESTROYED?

NOT OUR WORLD,
CANNON. JUST THE
HUMAN WORLD.



THE LAST TIME
I CHECKED, THEY
WERE ONE AND
THE SAME.

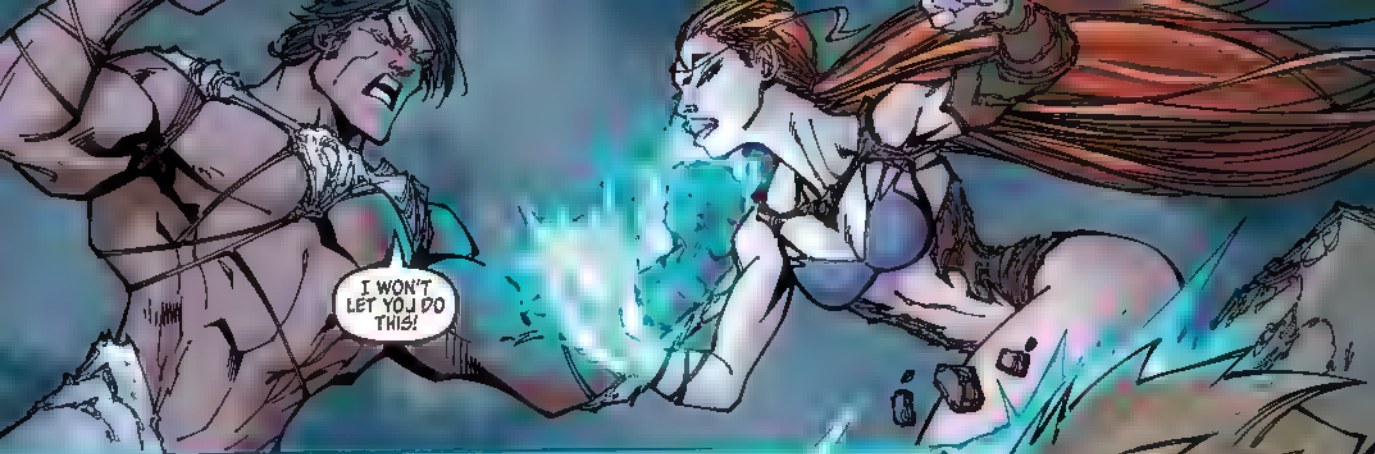


THAT'S YOUR
VIEW, NOT MINE. I'M
NOT ONE OF YOUR
DRONES ANYMORE. YOU
CAN'T PERSUADE
ME. YOU CAN'T
COERCE ME.

YOU CAN
ONLY KILL
ME.

IF YOU
CAN.

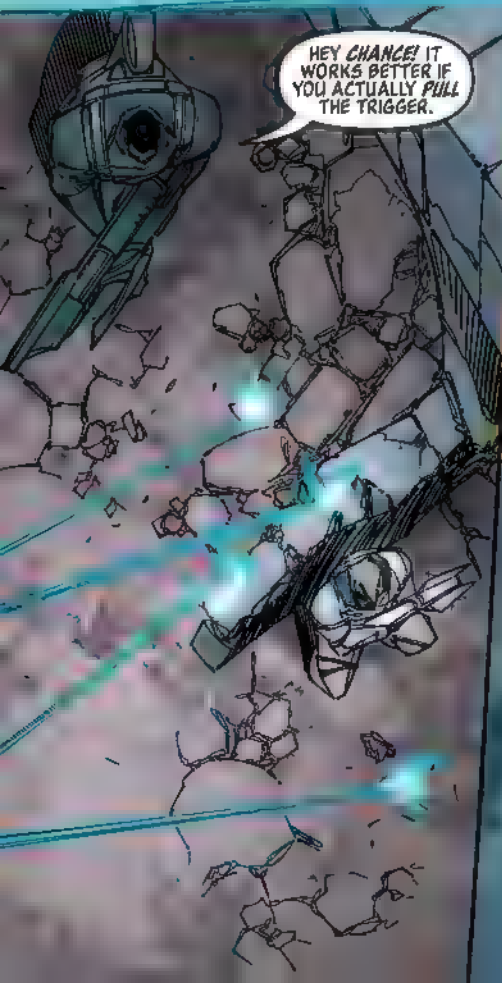




I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS!



IT'S LIKE A FREE-FOR-ALL! EVERYBODY FIGHTING EVERYBODY.

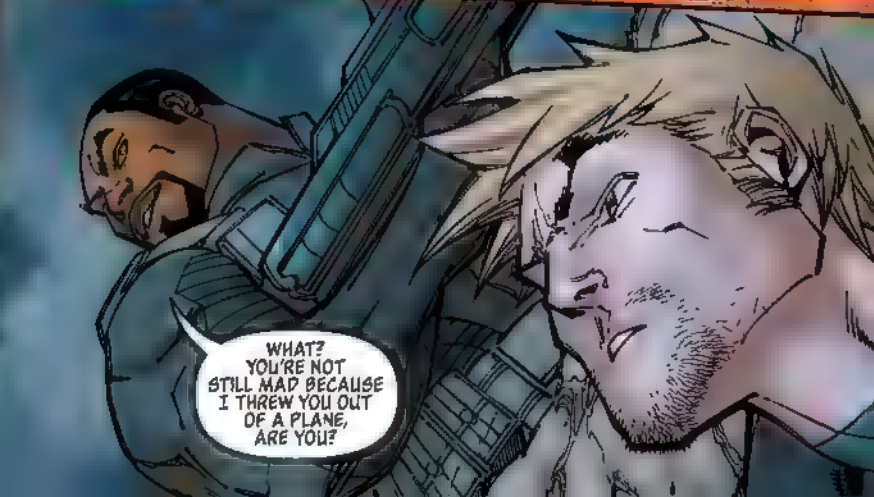


HEY CHANCE! IT WORKS BETTER IF YOU ACTUALLY PULL THE TRIGGER.



OOOOFFF!!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?



WHAT? YOU'RE NOT STILL MAD BECAUSE I THREW YOU OUT OF A PLANE, ARE YOU?



I KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE DOING, BUT
I WILL NOT LET YOU
SIMPLY TAKE MY
POWER, ASPEN.

DON'T
WORRY. I'M NOT
GOING TO KEEP
IT FOR LONG.

RANGER, I
DON'T WANT TO
HURT YOU. STOP
THIS. NOW!

FOOLISH
CHILD.

YOU CANNOT
HURT ME.



YOU CANNOT
STOP ME.

ANYMORE
THAN YOU COULD
STOP THE TIDES. WE ARE
THE PROTECTORS OF THE
UNIVERSAL LIFE FORCE. WE
ARE WATER. OUR WRATH
IS UNAVOIDABLE
AND INEVITABLE.

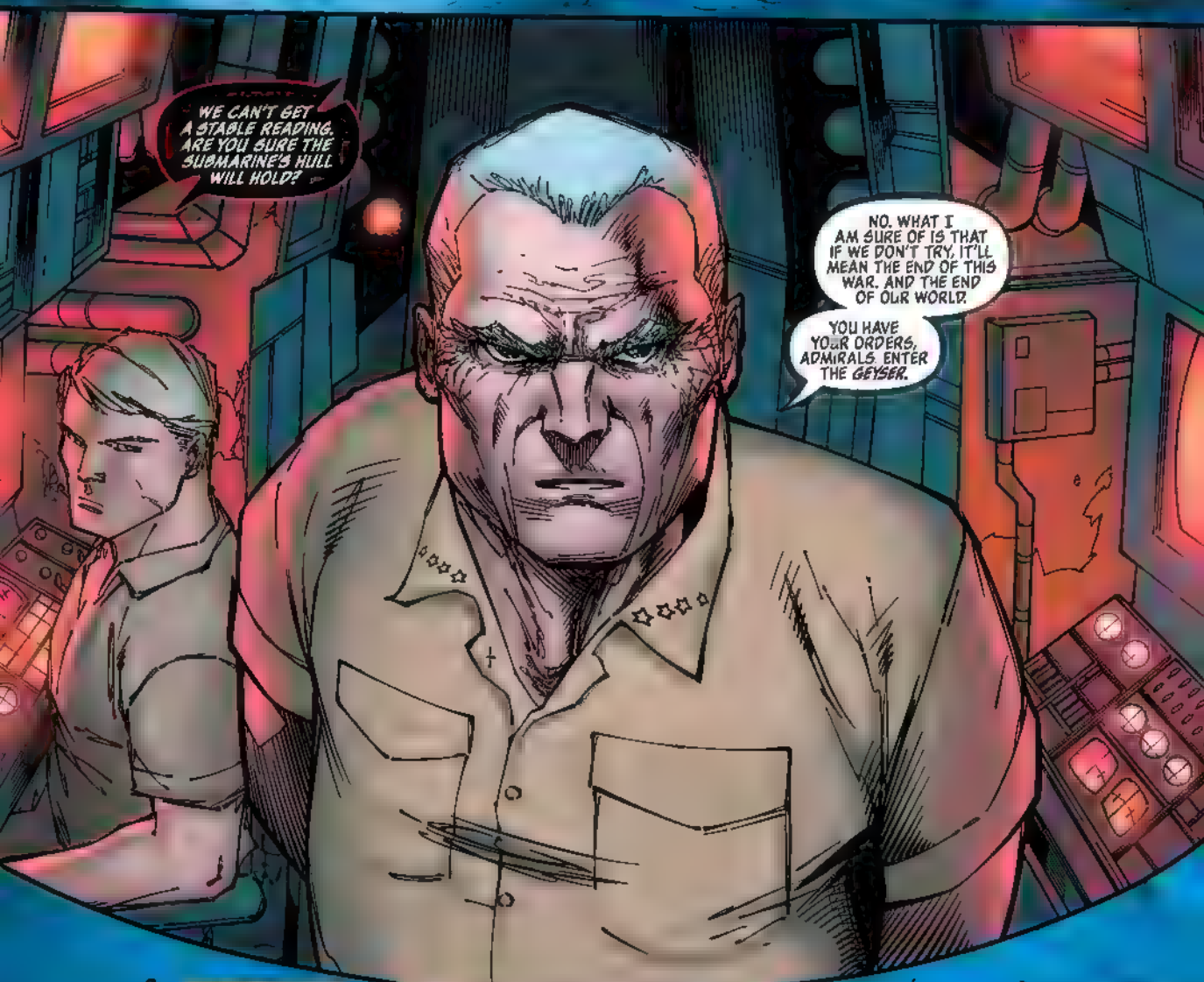
YOU CANNOT
STAND IN THE WAY
OF DESTINY.

AAAAHHH!!!



JOHN F. KENNEDY.

IT'S NOW OR NEVER.



WE CAN'T GET A STABLE READING. ARE YOU SURE THE SUBMARINE'S HULL WILL HOLD?

NO. WHAT I AM SURE OF IS THAT IF WE DON'T TRY, IT'LL MEAN THE END OF THIS WAR. AND THE END OF OUR WORLD.

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, ADMIRALS. ENTER THE GEYSER.



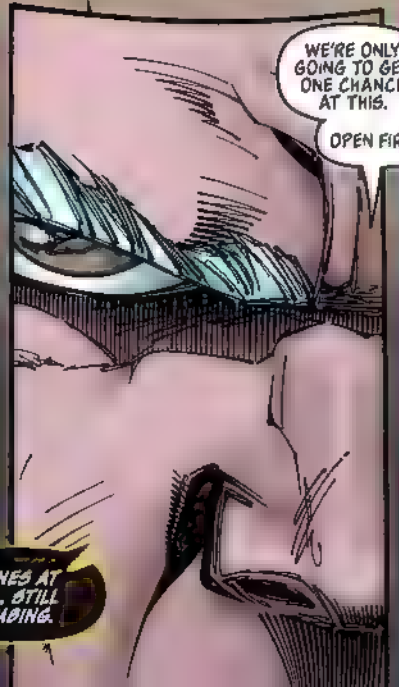
MICHIGAN.

THE FORCE IS INCREDIBLE.

OUR INSTRUMENTS ARE USELESS.

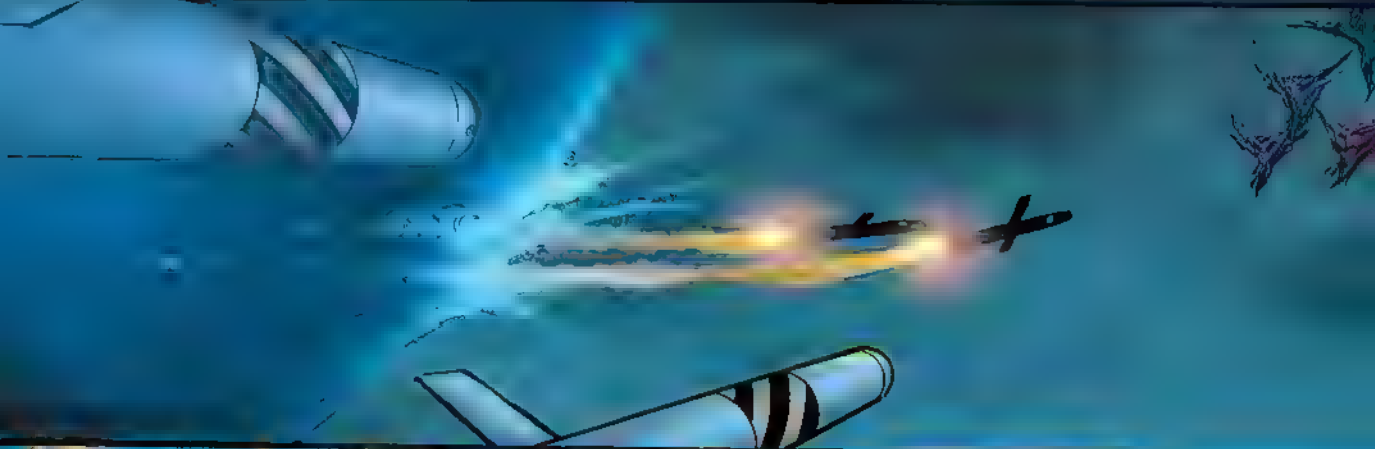
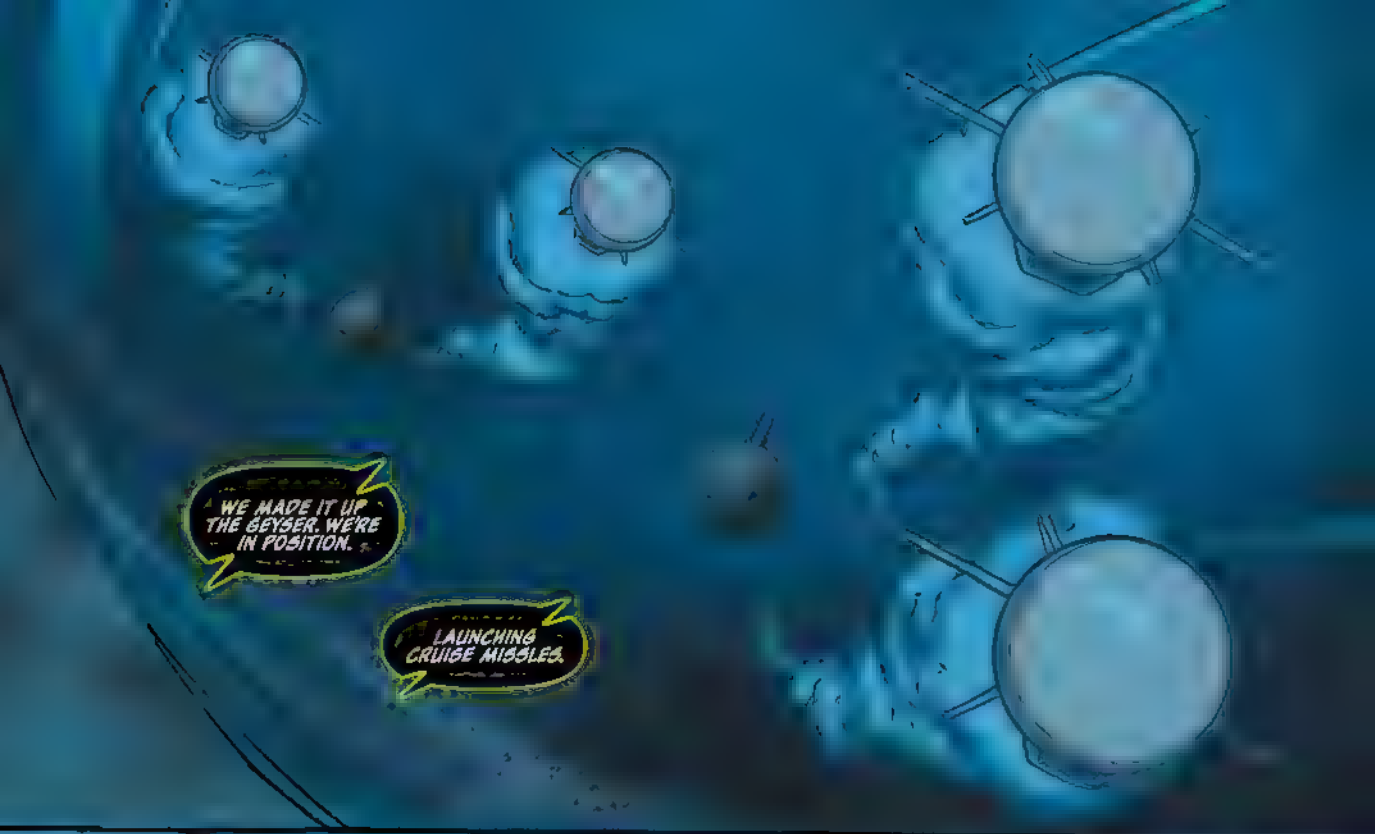
SAN JUAN.

ENGINES AT FULL. STILL CLIMBING.

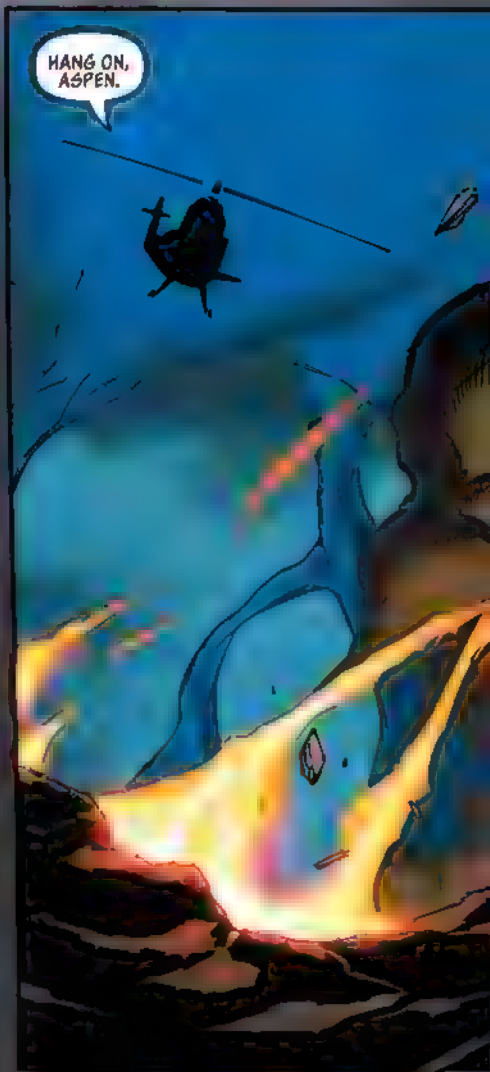


WE'RE ONLY GOING TO GET ONE CHANCE AT THIS. OPEN FIRE.











NNNNNNN

I HAD SUCH HIGH
HOPES FOR YOU, ASPEN.
WHEN YOUR MOTHER GAVE
BIRTH TO YOU, I THOUGHT
YOU WOULD RISE TO THE
OCCASION AND EMBRACE
- YOUR LINEAGE -

SAD THAT
THE SAME POWER
YOU REJECT NOW
CAUSES YOU SO
MUCH PAIN.

I GUESS
THIS IS THE
ONLY END YOU
DESERVE.



ANDERSON!
THERE! HE'S
KILLING HER!

SHOOT!

RELAX.

I GOT
THIS.

FOOLS! WHEN
WILL THEY LEARN
THAT THEIR
WEAPONS ARE

WHAT IS
THIS??

RAAWWRRR!!!

NO...!

RAHGER... YOU
NEED TO RETURN TO
THE WATER. IT'S THE
ONLY WAY TO **SAVE**
YOURSELF.

IT'S TOO LATE,
ASPEN. I FEEL MY BODY
SEIZING UP THESE-- THESE
HUMANS HAVE PROVEN TO
BE MORE RESOURCEFUL
THAN I THOUGHT
POSSIBLE.

LET ME
HELP YOU.

AFTER
FIGHTING ME
EVERY STEP OF
WAY, NOW YOU
WANT TO-- TO
HELP ME?

I DON'T WANT
ANYONE TO DIE.
EVEN YOU.

THAT'S
BECAUSE DEEP
DOWN, YOU KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.

YOU
ARE... ONE
OF... US.

LET
YOUR TRUE
BIRTHRIGHT...

...BE
REVEALED.

WHAT...

...WHAT IS
THIS?





RAHGER...

...YOU THOUGHT BECAUSE
I WAS YOUR DAUGHTER
THAT I WOULD STAND
WITH YOU IN YOUR FIGHT.

BUT, I'M MORE THAN
OF THE BLACK. I'M
THE BLUE. I'M HUMAN.

IF I AM GOING TO
FIGHT, I WILL FIGHT
FOR THIS WORLD.



WHAT DO
WE DO?

THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO, EXCEPT
HOLD ON AND
PRAY.



PRAY
THAT SHE
CAN STOP
THIS.

ONCE AGAIN, I FIND MYSELF
STANDING BETWEEN HUMANITY
AND THE END OF THE WORLD.

SENSIBLE PEOPLE WOULD RUN AWAY
FROM SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT
ME? I'M HEADING STRAIGHT INTO IT,
STRANGE NEW ARMOR AND ALL.

IS THIS DESTINY OR FATE?
WAS I ALWAYS MEANT TO
BE THE DECIDING FACTOR
IN THESE WARS BETWEEN
THE WORLD ABOVE AND
THE WORLD BELOW?

AM I HERE BECAUSE
OF WHO I WAS? OR
WAS IT BECAUSE OF
WHY I BECAME?

ALL I KNOW
IS THAT I AM
HERE NOW.

AND WHO BETTER THAN ME? MY EXISTENCE
WAS BORN FROM A UNION BETWEEN THE
BLUE AND THE BLACK, AND YET I SPENT
MOST OF MY YOUNG LIFE ON THE SURFACE—
LIVING AMONGST THE HUMANS.

I AM THE DAUGHTER
OF THREE WORLDS.

I AM ASPEN
MATTHEWS.

AND I AM
HERE TO
SAVE THE
WORLD...

...BECAUSE
I HAVE
THE POWER.

BECAUSE
I HAVE
THE WILL.

AND BECAUSE I CAN.

U.S.S. JOHN F. KENNEDY

I'LL BE DAMNED YOUR GIRL DID IT.

OF COURSE SHE DID.

THERE'S YOUR SHIP. YOU WANT ME TO DROP YOU OFF?



SURE, I--



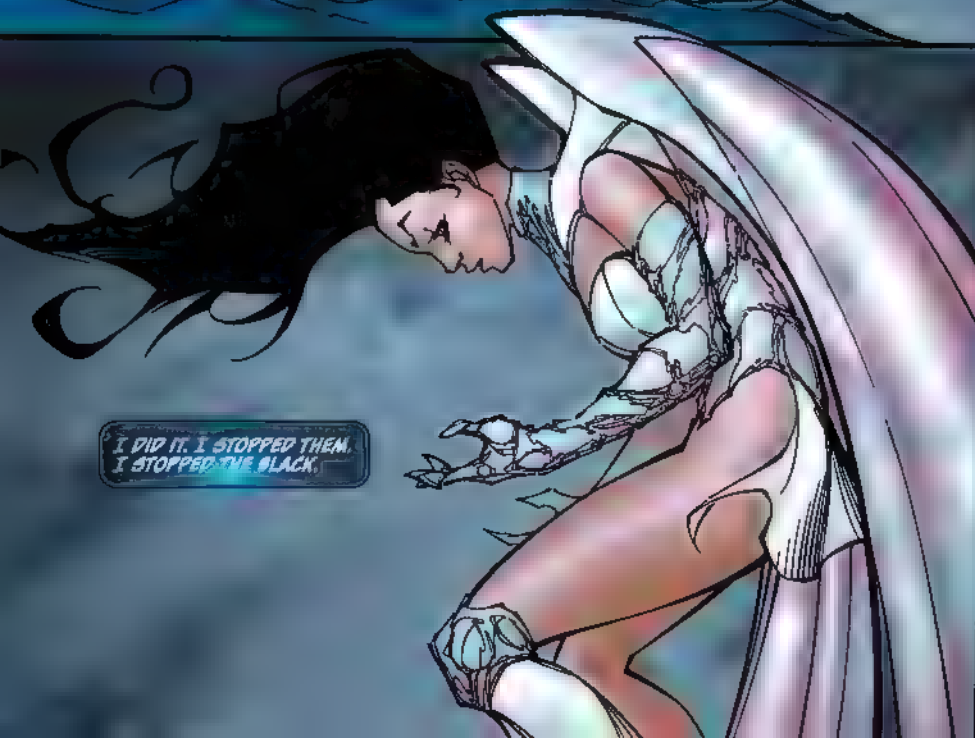
--HEY!!!



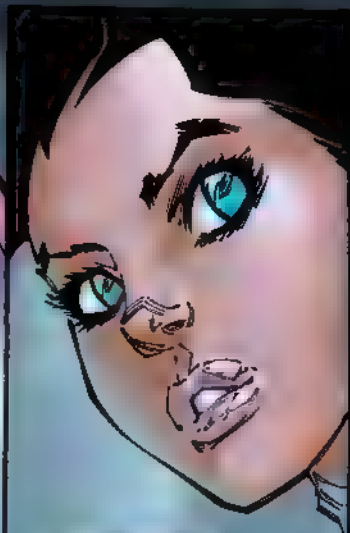
PAYBACK'S A BITCH, MOTHERTRUCKER!



I DID IT. I STOPPED THEM. I STOPPED THE SLACK.



THEN AGAIN.







YOU FORGET
YOUR TRAINING, KIANI.
RAGE DOESN'T HELP
YOU IN BATTLE.

IT MAKES
YOU SLOPPY.
OBVIOUS.

VULNERABLE.



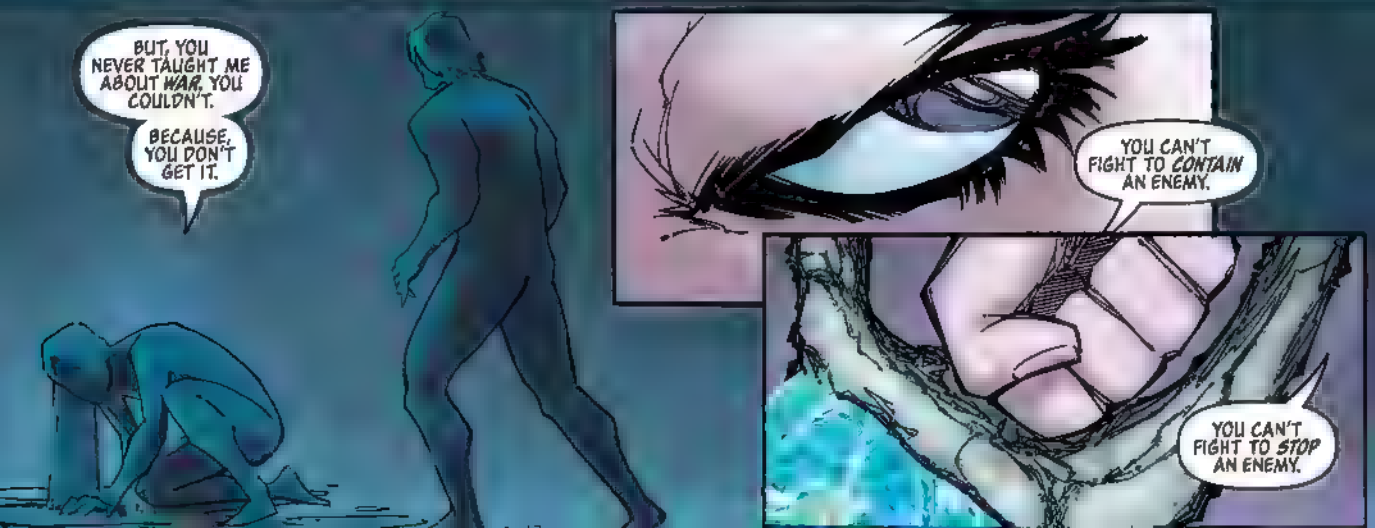
I TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING I COULD, BUT I COULDN'T TEACH YOU *UNDERSTANDING*, *SYMPATHY*, OR EVEN *PERSPECTIVE*.

THAT'S WHY YOU STILL CRADLE YOUR *HATRED* FOR THE HUMANS. IT CLOUDS YOUR MIND.

YOU'RE WRONG, CANNON. MY *HATRED* IS MY *SPARK*. IT DRIVES ME.

YOU TAUGHT ME ABOUT COMBAT.

UGHNNN!



BUT, YOU NEVER TAUGHT ME ABOUT *WAR*. YOU COULDN'T.

BECAUSE, YOU DON'T GET IT.

YOU CAN'T FIGHT TO *CONTAIN* AN ENEMY.

YOU CAN'T FIGHT TO *STOP* AN ENEMY.



A comic book panel featuring a woman with long, flowing blonde hair and a man with dark, spiky hair. The woman is in the background, looking intensely at the man with a determined expression. The man is in the foreground, looking forward with a fierce, almost feral expression, showing his teeth. He is wearing a blue loincloth and has his hands clasped in front of him. The woman is wearing a brown, laced-up garment. The background is a vibrant, fiery red with streaks of light and smoke. A speech bubble from the woman contains the text: "YOU HAVE TO FIGHT TO KILL THE ENEMY."

YOU HAVE
TO FIGHT TO KILL
THE ENEMY.



VOL. 3

#10

OF 10
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



ALAN
★



#10

OF 10
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM



VOLUME 3
Issue Ten of Ten

FATHOM

J.T. KRUL

story

ALÉ GARZA

pencils

SAL REGLA

inks

JOHN STARR

colors

JOSH REED

letters

WRITER: J.T. KRUL ■ EDITOR: MICHAEL TURNER ■ ARTIST: ALÉ GARZA ■ INK: SAL REGLA ■ COLOR: JOHN STARR ■ LETTERS: JOSH REED ■ COVER ART: VINCE HERMANO ■ SPECIAL THANKS TO: DREAMAR DREAM

For ASPEN

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MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ Vol. 3 Issue 10

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THE ONE LYING BEFORE
ME-- THE ONE WHOSE
BLOOD IS ON MY
SWORD-- IS CANNON.

WHEN I MET HIM, I WAS
ALREADY A HARDENED
WARRIOR, FILLED WITH
HATRED TOWARD HUMANS
FOR WHAT THEY DID TO MY
HOME, KANIELLE.

SERVING UNDER HIM, CANNON TRIED TO
SHOW ME A DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE
SURFACE WORLD-- A SIDE THAT WASN'T
VILE, BELLIGERENT AND DESTRUCTIVE. HE
HOPED TO INSTILL IN ME WITH A SENSE OF
COMPASSION AND PEACE.

HE FAILS

KIANI!!!!



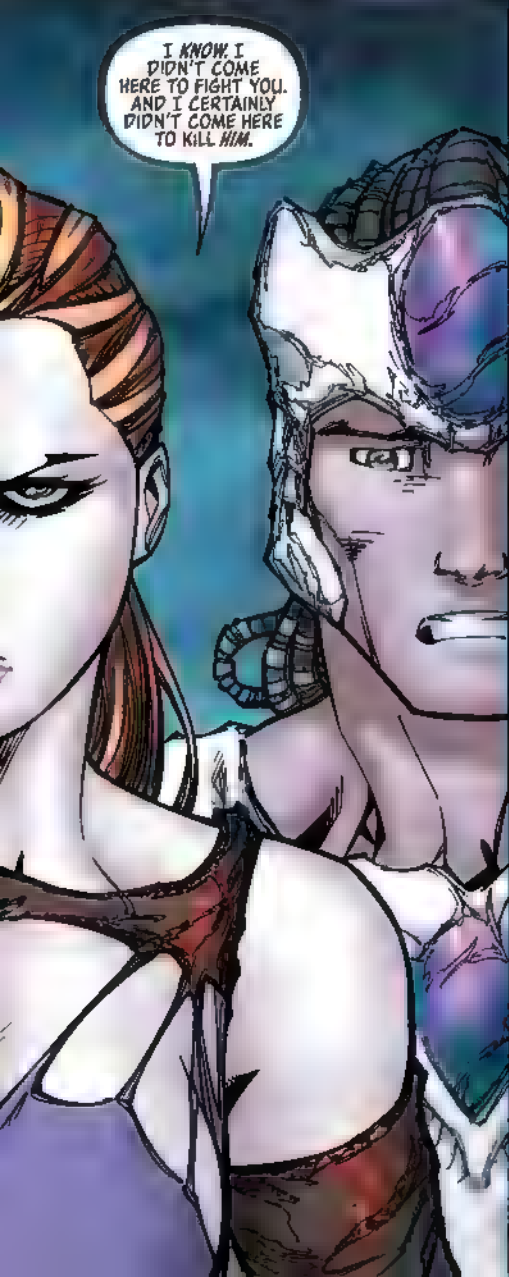


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!!

I...

HE RAISED YOU.

THIS GOES BEYOND EVERYTHING. IT'S INSANE. CANNON TRAINED YOU... MENTORED YOU.



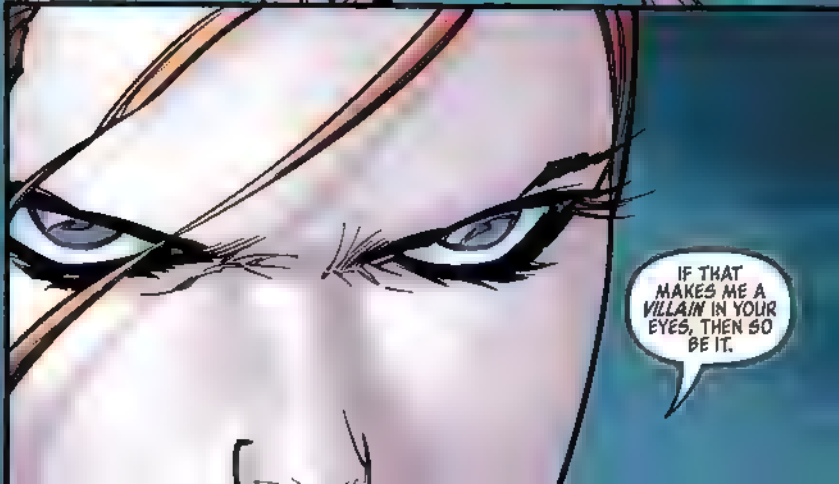
I KNOW I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU. AND I CERTAINLY DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL HIM.



THEN WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, SIPHON? YOU'RE STANDING WITH THE ENEMY-- DEFENDING THEM.

THE HUMANS MUST PAY. THAT'S WHY CANNON IS DEAD. AND I'LL DO THE SAME TO ANYONE WHO STANDS IN MY WAY.

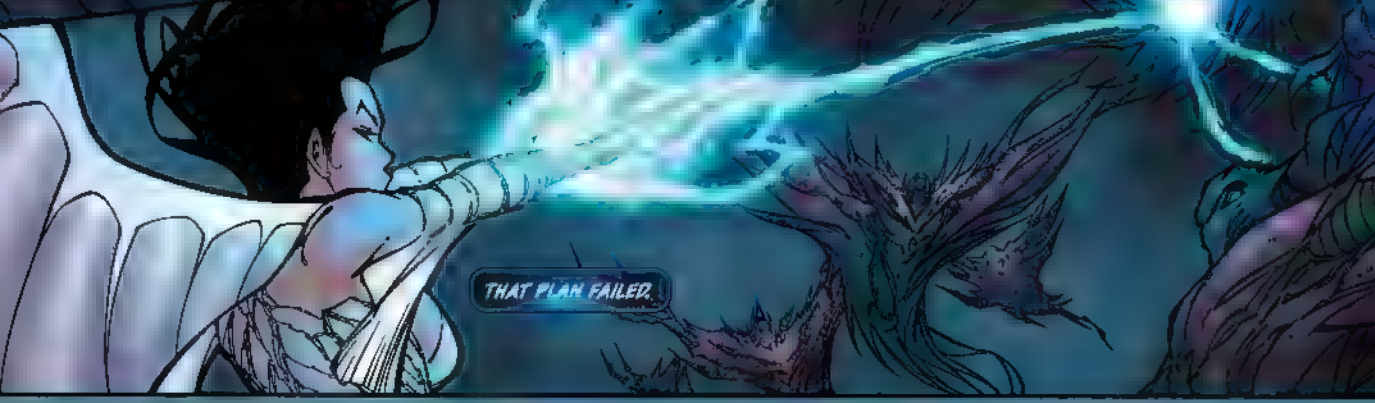


IF THAT MAKES ME A VILLAIN IN YOUR EYES, THEN SO BE IT.

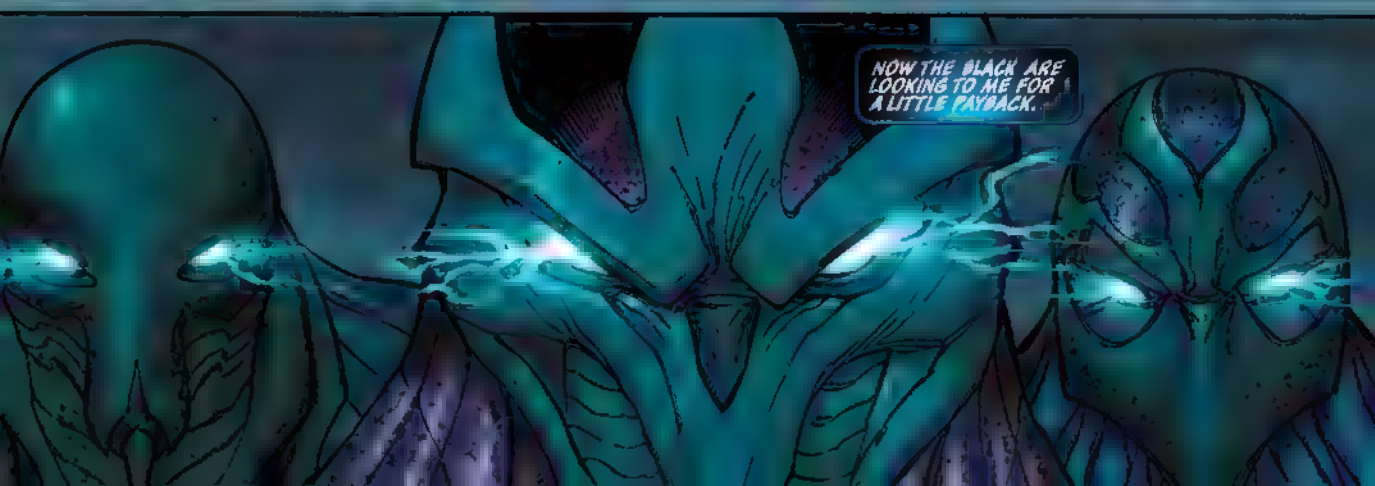


THE BLACK WERE ONCE CONSIDERED
CREATURES OF MYTH BY THE BLUE,
BUT IT'S PRETTY CLEAR NOW THAT
THEY ARE VERY MUCH REAL.

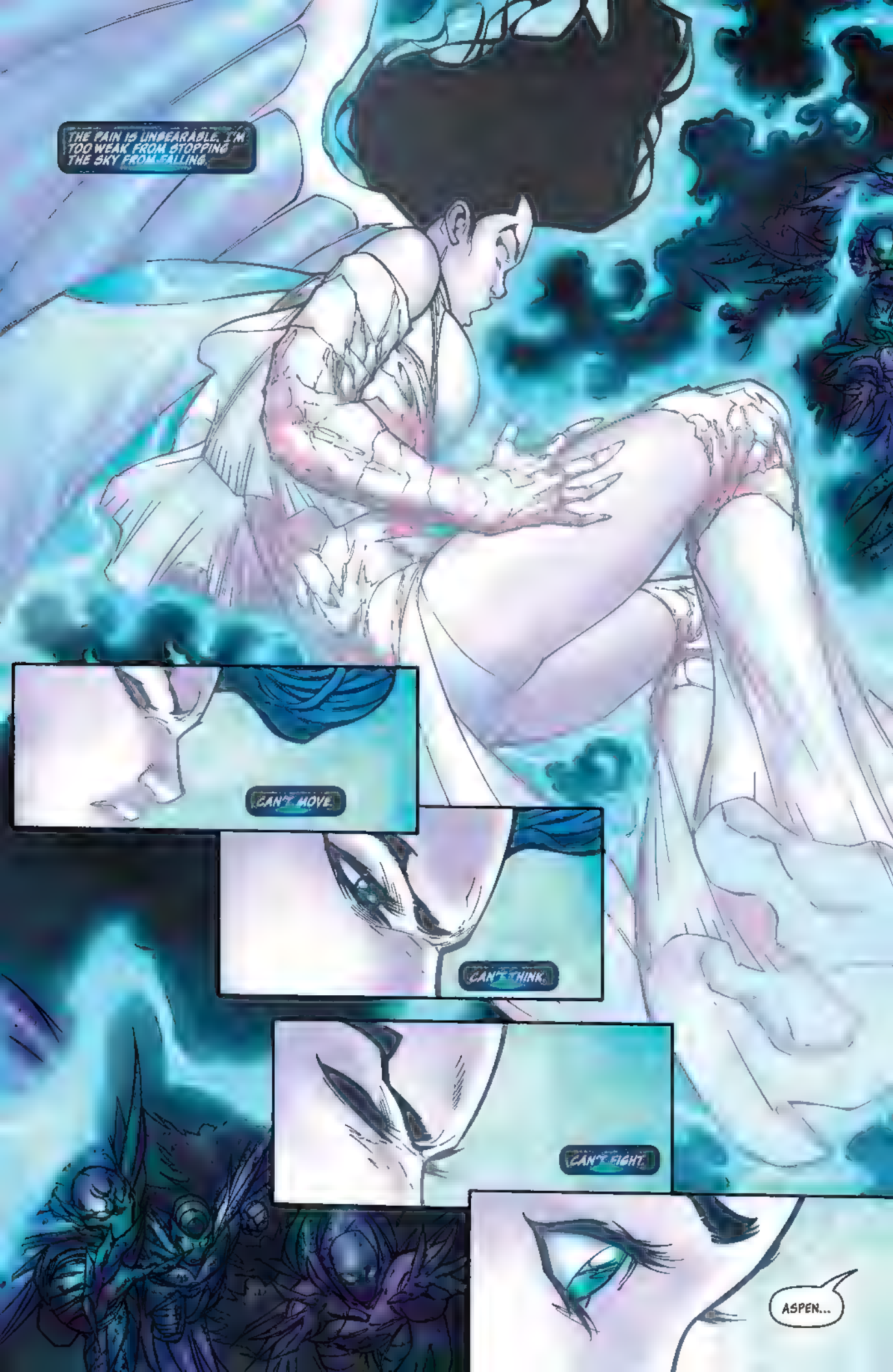
I SHOULD KNOW. MY FATHER
WAS ONE OF THEM. THEY
SURFACED WITH PLANS TO
DESTROY HUMANITY WITH
THE GREATEST FLOOD SINCE
BIBLICAL TIMES.



THAT PLAN FAILED.



NOW THE BLACK ARE
LOOKING TO ME FOR
A LITTLE PAYBACK.



THE PAIN IS UNBEARABLE. I'M
TOO WEAK FROM STOPPING
THE SKY FROM FALLING.

CAN'T MOVE.

CAN'T THINK.

CAN'T FIGHT.

ASPEN...



CASQUE? YOU'VE
BEEN FIGHTING ALONG
SIDE RAHGER AND
THE BLACK?

OF COURSE.
I AM OF THE
BLACK.

YOU CAN'T
DO THIS. I WON'T
STAND BY AND WATCH
YOU DESTROY THE
HUMAN RACE.



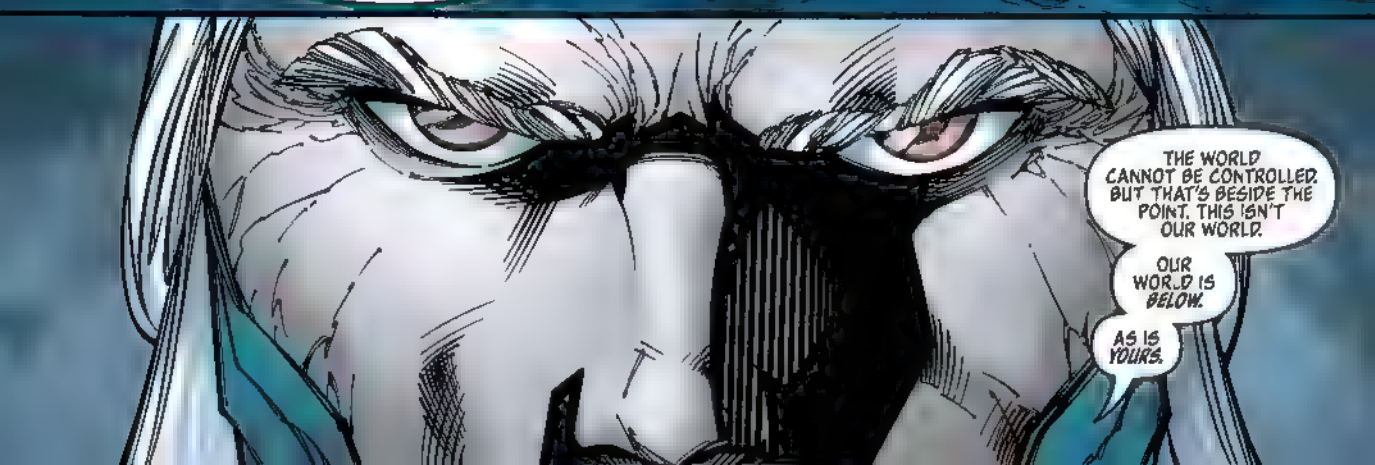
YOU WON'T
HAVE TO, ASPEN.
THIS WAR IS
OVER.

THE WATER HAS
LONG BEEN POISONED DUE
TO HUMANITY'S ARROGANCE.
BUT RAHGER HAD HIS OWN
ARROGANCE, BELIEVING THAT
SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAD THE
POWER, WE HAD THE RIGHT
TO DOMINATE.

THE WATER DOES
NOT WISH TO DOMINATE
THE PLANET. IT MERELY
SEEKS TO EXIST-- TO SURVIVE
AND THRIVE. AS DO THE
BLACK. I TRUST THAT THE
HUMANS UNDERSTAND
THAT NOW.



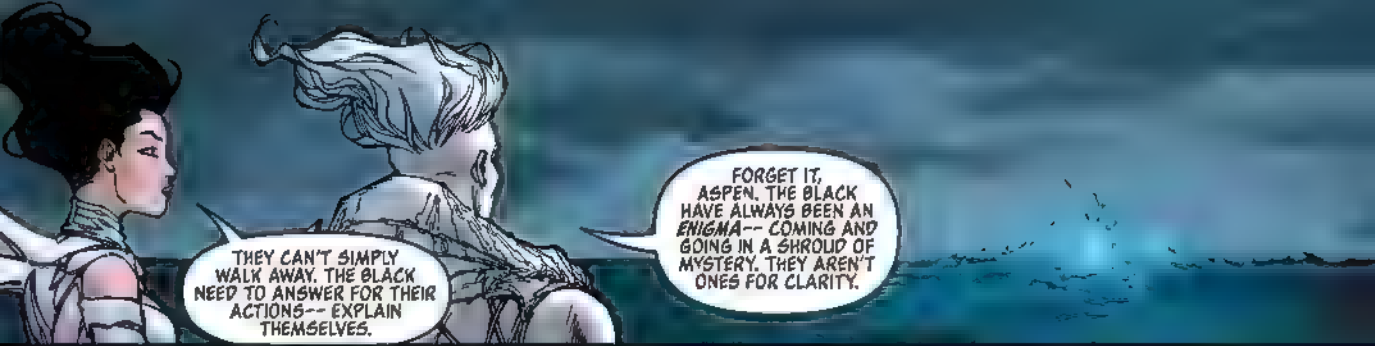
SO, YOU'RE GOING
TO TURN AROUND? GO
BACK HOME, AND STOP
TRYING TO CONTROL
THE WORLD?



THE WORLD
CANNOT BE CONTROLLED.
BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE
POINT. THIS ISN'T
OUR WORLD.

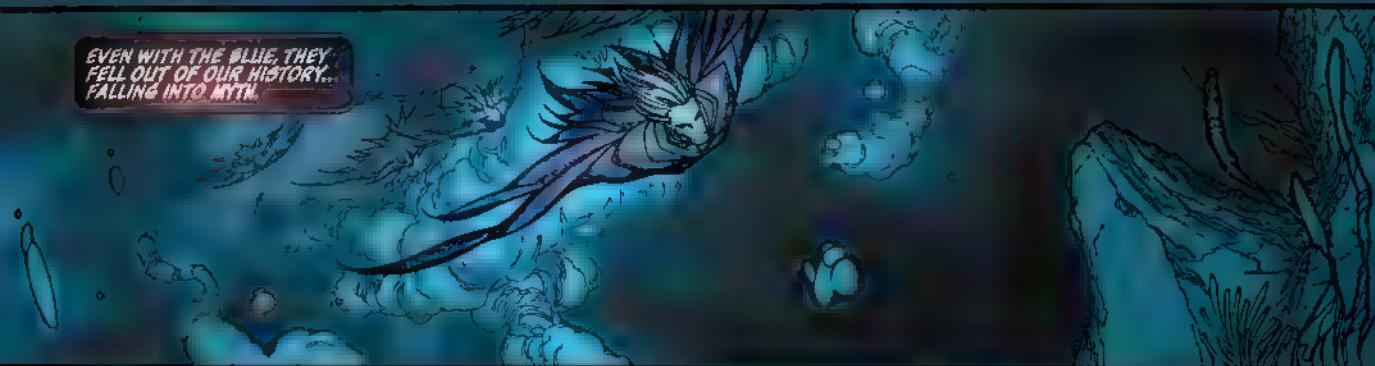
OUR
WORLD IS
BELOW.

AS IS
YOURS.



THEY CAN'T SIMPLY
WALK AWAY. THE BLACK
NEED TO ANSWER FOR THEIR
ACTIONS--- EXPLAIN
THEMSELVES.

FORGET IT.
ASPEN, THE BLACK
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN
ENIGMA--- COMING AND
GOING IN A SHROUD OF
MYSTERY. THEY AREN'T
ONES FOR CLARITY.



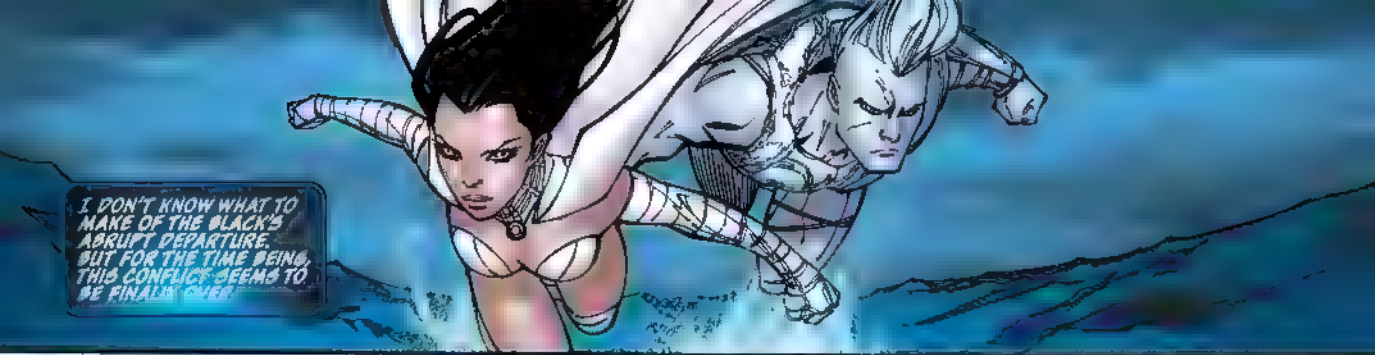
EVEN WITH THE BLUE, THEY
FELL OUT OF OUR HISTORY...
FALLING INTO MYTH.



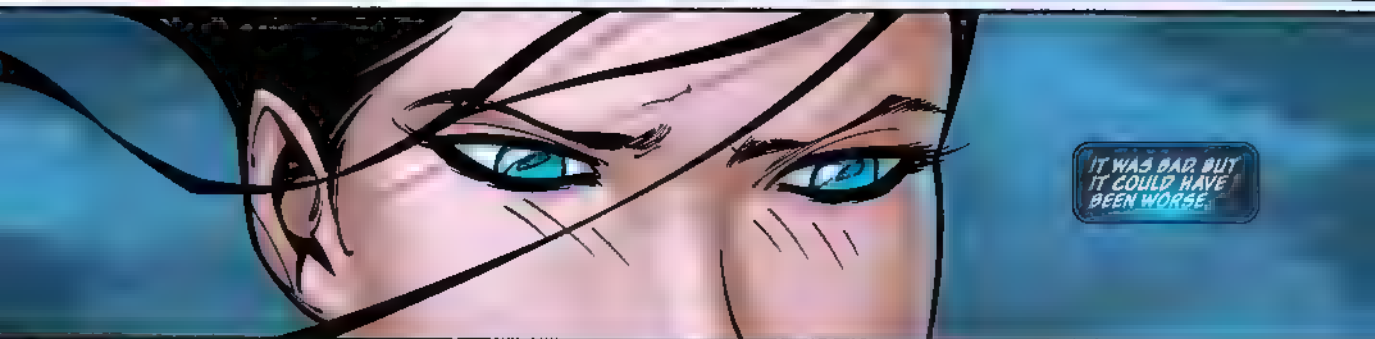
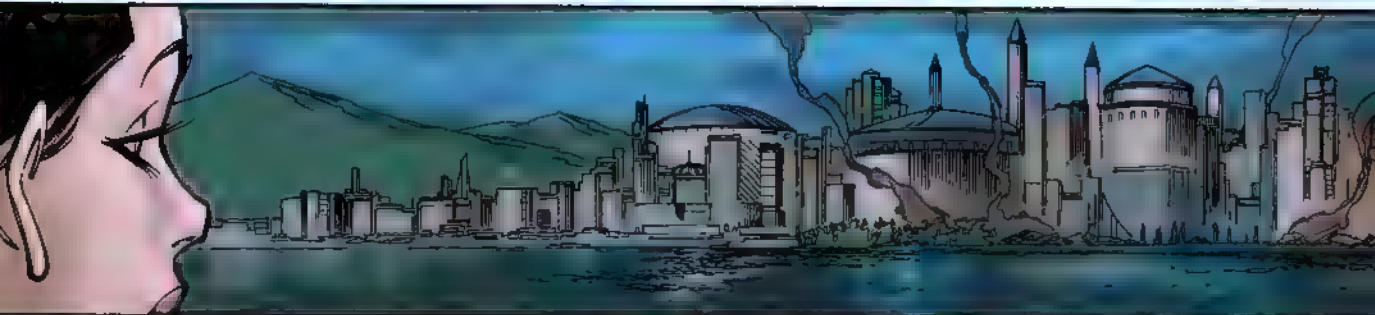
GIVEN TIME, I SUPPOSE
IT WILL BE THE SAME
WITH THE HUMANS.



LIKE CASQUE SAID---
THIS ISN'T THEIR WORLD.



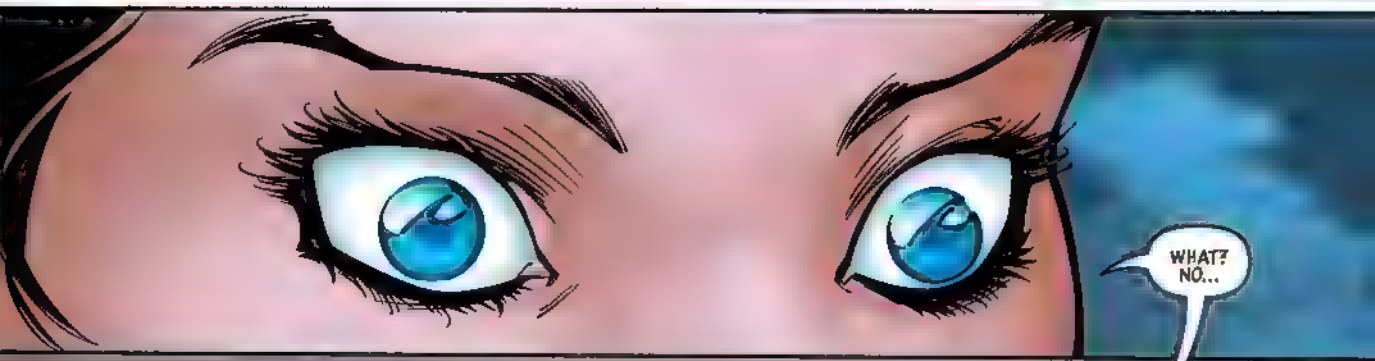
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO
MAKE OF THE BLACK'S
ABRUPT DEPARTURE.
BUT FOR THE TIME BEING,
THIS CONFLICT SEEMS TO
BE FINALLY OVER.



IT WAS BAD, BUT
IT COULD HAVE
BEEN WORSE.



MUCH WORSE.



WHAT?
NO...



CANNON...?







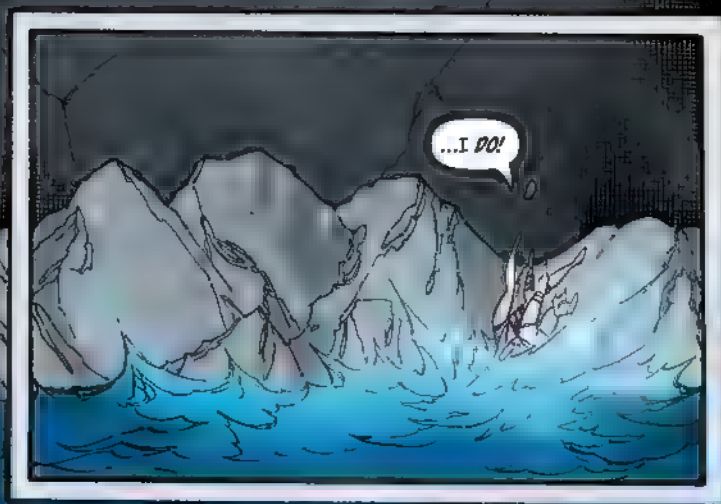
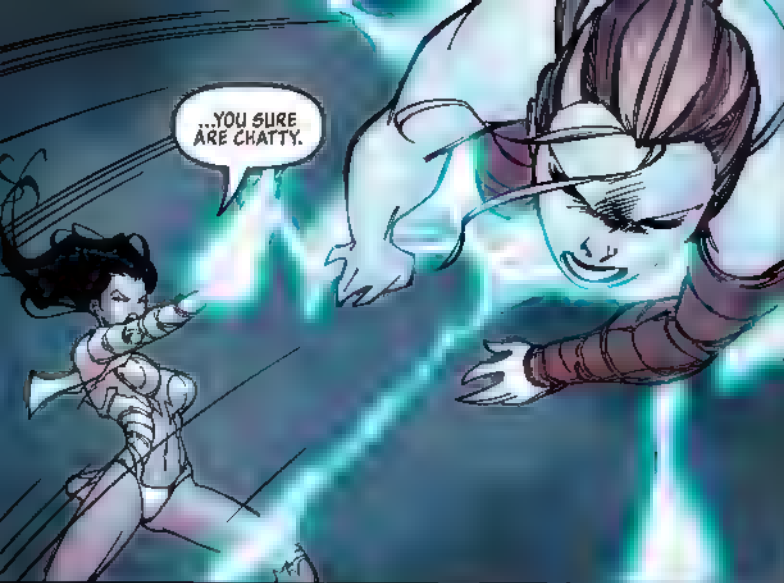
YOU GOT ME
BEAT IN THE POWER
DEPARTMENT.

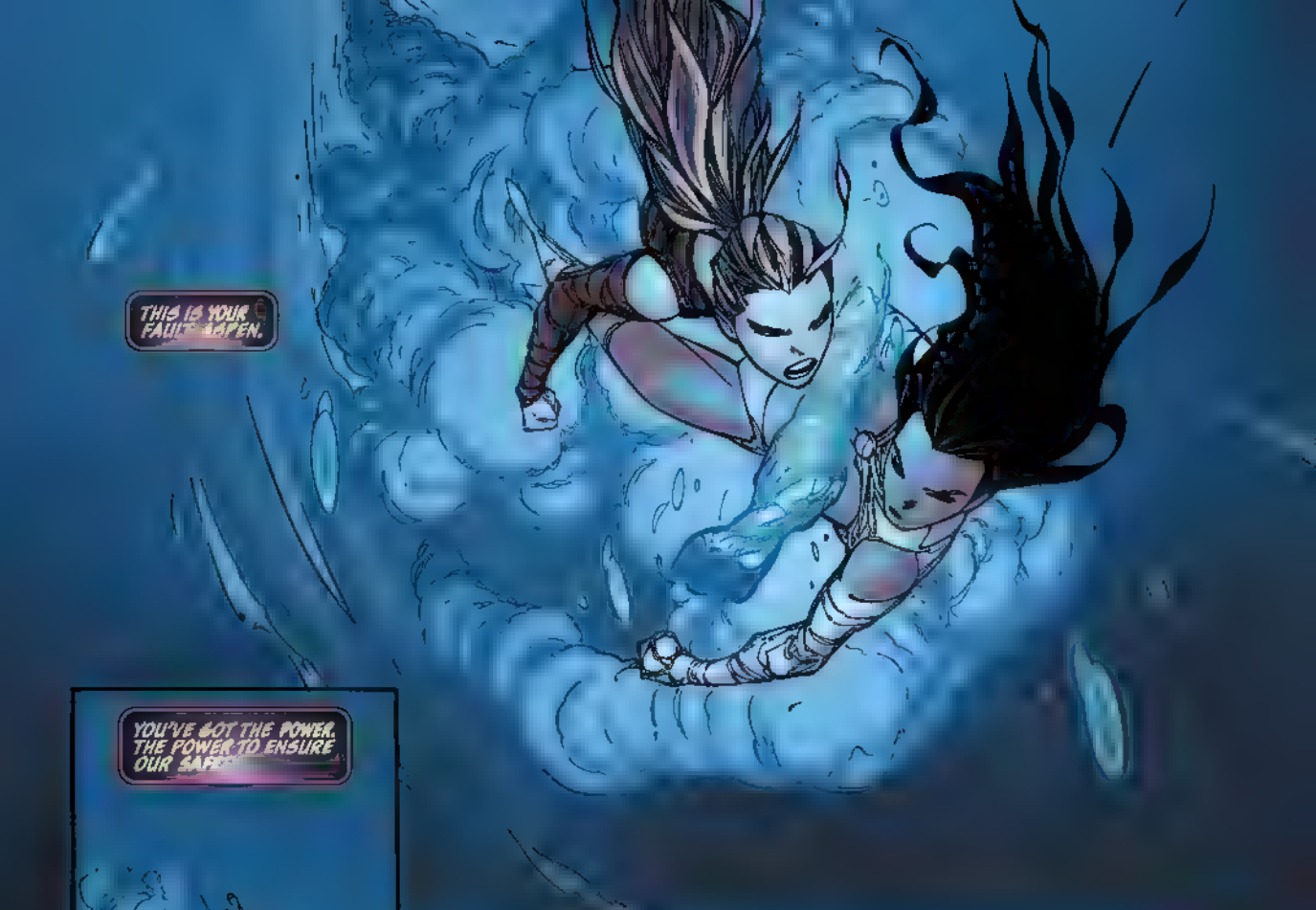
BUT YOU
LACK FOCUS.
AND TRAINING.
YOU ARE NO
WARRIOR.

YOU'RE JUST
A GIRL.

YOU'RE
WEAK. SLOW.
CLUMSY.

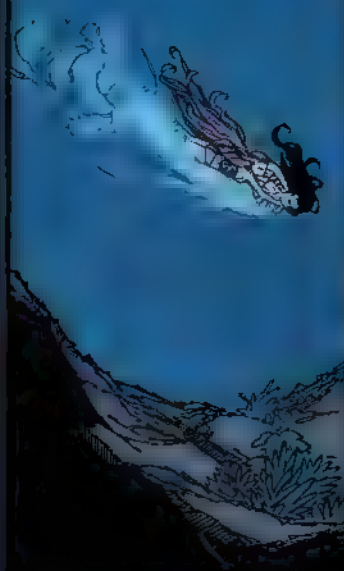
YEAH? WELL,
FOR THE DARK,
BROODING
TYPE...





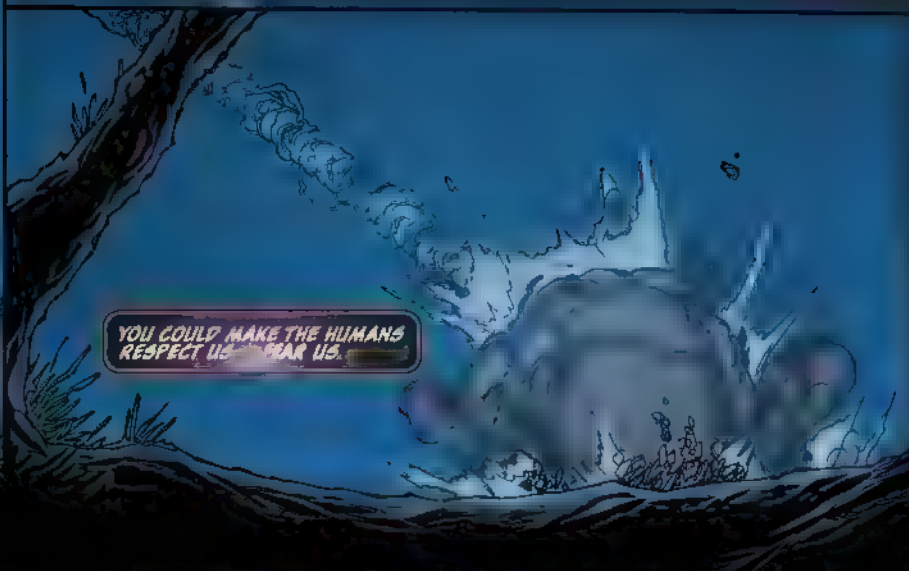
THIS IS YOUR
FAULT. OPEN.

A dynamic action scene featuring two female Saiyans. The one on the left has long, flowing blonde hair and wears a red and white gi. The one on the right has long, flowing black hair and wears a blue and white gi. They are in a close, physical struggle, surrounded by a large, billowing cloud of white smoke or dust. The background is a dark, starry space.



YOU'VE GOT THE POWER.
THE POWER TO ENSURE
OUR SAFETY.

A small, rectangular inset panel showing a Saiyan with long blonde hair flying through the air, leaving a trail of white smoke or dust behind them. The background is a dark, starry space.



YOU COULD MAKE THE HUMANS
RESPECT US. FEAR US.

A large, dark, rocky planet or moon dominates the background of this panel. The foreground shows a dark, rocky landscape with some sparse vegetation. The sky is a deep blue with some white clouds or smoke.



WHAT GOOD
IS ALL THAT
POWER IF
YOU WON'T
USE IT.

A Saiyan with long blonde hair stands on a rocky, uneven surface. She is wearing a red and white gi. She is looking down at the ground with a determined expression. The background is a dark, starry space.

IF I WERE YOU,
I WOULD
WALK AWAY.

...AND SHOW
THEM ALL.

WATCHING MY DAUGHTER
IN BATTLE, I REMEMBER
THE DRIVE THAT BURNS
IN MY OWN HEART.

KIANI MAY BE FIGHTING
THE WRONG ENEMY, BUT
SHE FIGHTS FOR THE
RIGHT REASONS.

I KNOW WHAT
ADREN IS
CAPABLE OF.

I SEE WHAT
IS ABOUT TO
HAPPEN.

KIANI IS MY FIRSTBORN.
I'VE TRIED TO PROTECT
HER BOTH FROM NEAR
AND AFAR.

BUT THIS TIME, I
CANNOT SAVE HER.



HER FATE IS SEALED IN
THOSE HATE-FILLED EYES

I CAN SEE IT IN HER EYES, HER
RAGE IS BOILING OVER, SHE'S
OUT OF CONTROL... WELL, SHE
MUST BE SOME CANNON.

I HAVE TO
STOP HER!

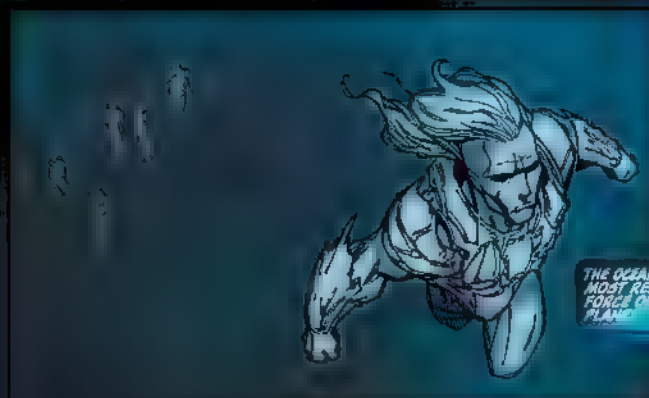
THE MORE SHE RESISTS, THE
MORE THE VORTEX PULLS
HER APART, WATCHING HER
STRUGGLE, I CANNOT HELP
BUT WONDER...

WE WERE BOTH RAISED
THINKING THAT WE HAD
LOST OUR PARENTS, WE
WERE BOTH MANIPULATED
AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF...

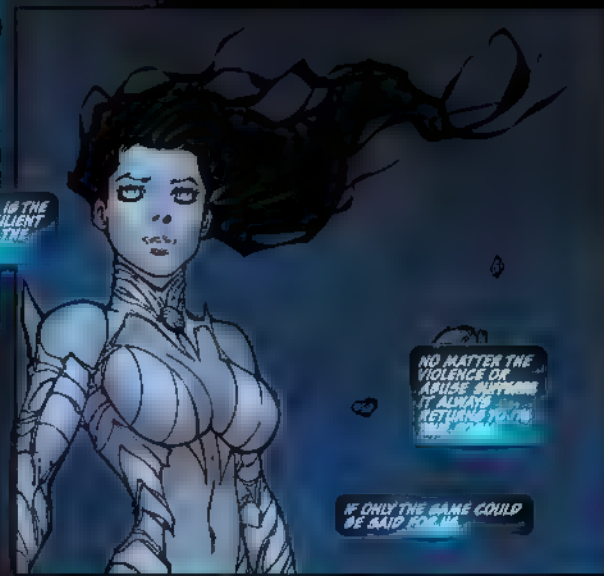
WERE IT NOT FOR CAPTAIN
MATTHEWS AND MY LIFE ON
THE SURFACE, I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE... WOULD I BE
FILLED WITH THE SAME
HATRED? WOULD I BE AS
CONSUMED BY MY GRIEF?

WOULD I KEEP
FIGHTING?

...UNTIL THE
VERY END.

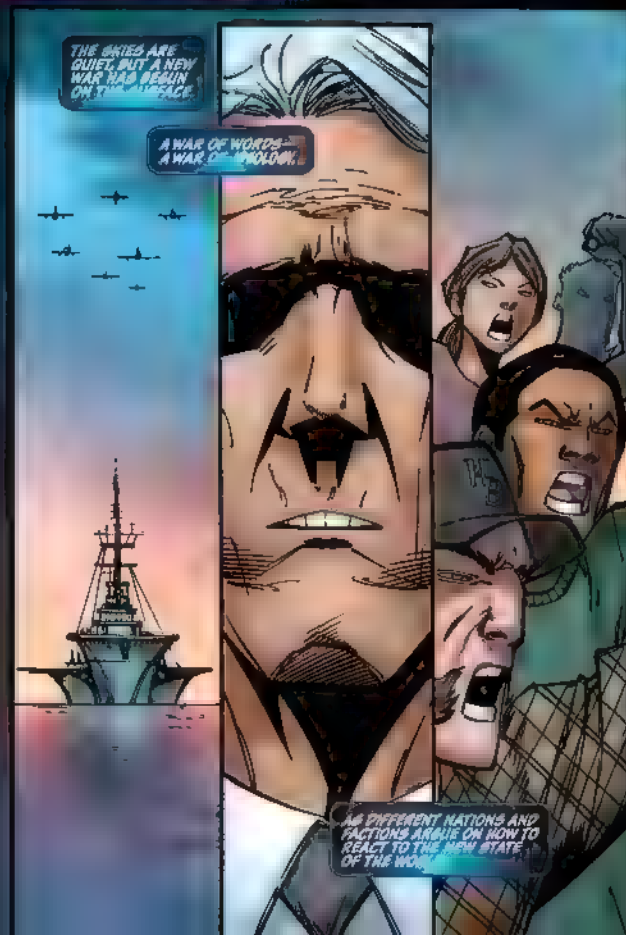


THE OCEAN IS THE
MOST RESILIENT
FORCE ON THE
PLANET.



NO MATTER THE
VIOLENCE OR
ADVERSE OUTCOME
IT ALWAYS
RETURNS TO THE
OCEAN.

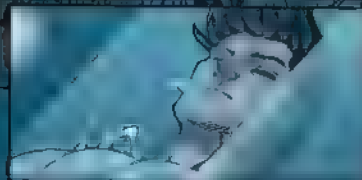
IF ONLY THE GAME COULD
BE SAID FOR US.



THE ONES ARE
QUIET, BUT A NEW
WAR HAS BEGUN
ON THE SURFACE.

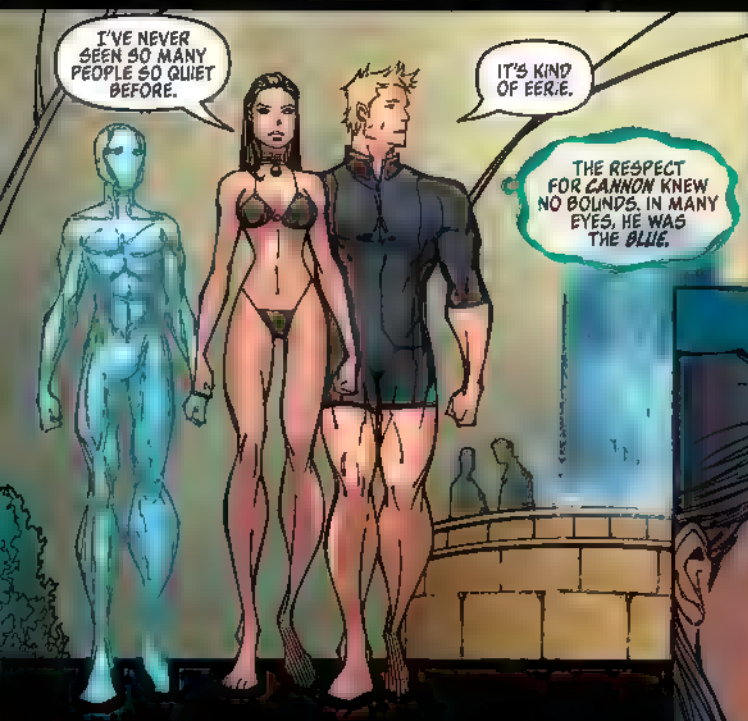
A WAR OF WORDS...
A WAR OF WISDOM.

AS DIFFERENT NATIONS AND
FACTIONS ARGUE ON HOW TO
REACT TO THE NEW STATE
OF THE WORLD.



...WITH
HONOR

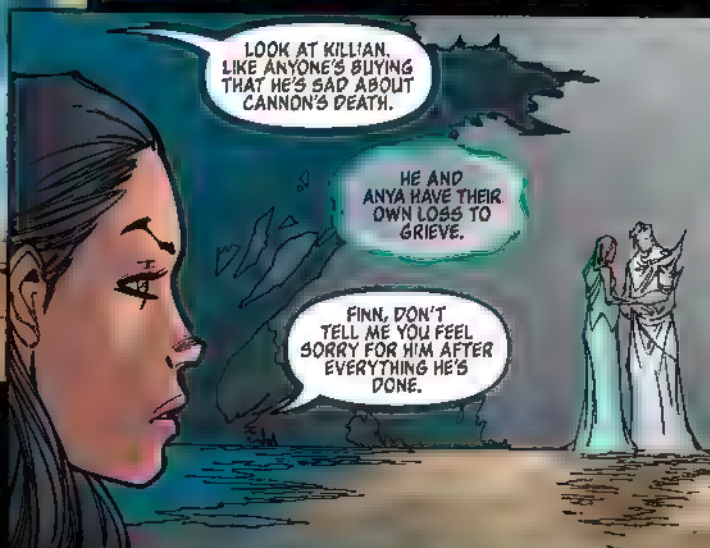




I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE SO QUIET BEFORE.

IT'S KIND OF EERIE.

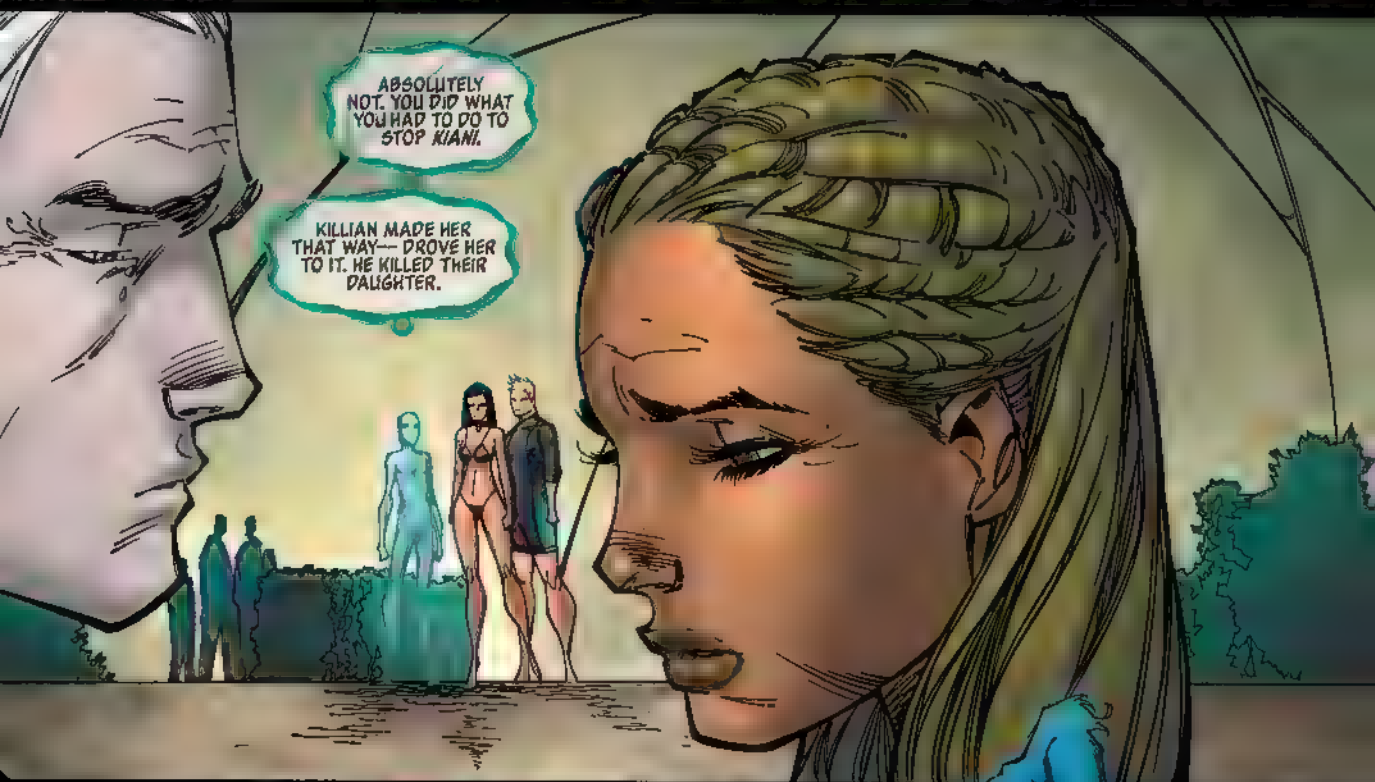
THE RESPECT FOR CANNON KNEW NO BOUNDS. IN MANY EYES, HE WAS THE BLUE.



LOOK AT KILLIAN. LIKE ANYONE'S BUYING THAT HE'S SAD ABOUT CANNON'S DEATH.

HE AND ANYA HAVE THEIR OWN LOSS TO GRIEVE.

FINN, DON'T TELL ME YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM AFTER EVERYTHING HE'S DONE.

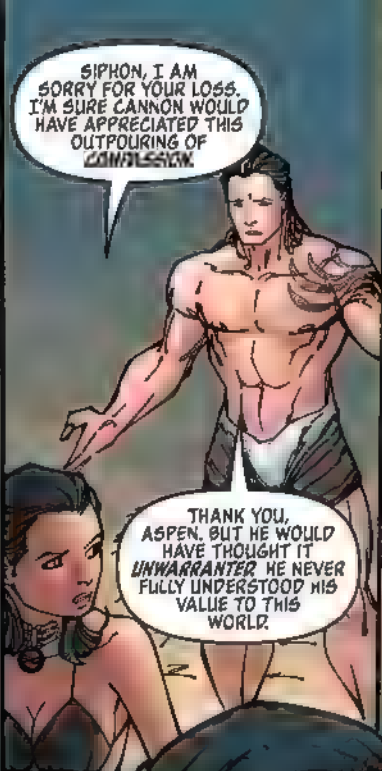


ABSOLUTELY NOT. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO TO STOP KIANI.

KILLIAN MADE HER THAT WAY—DROVE HER TO IT. HE KILLED THEIR DAUGHTER.

AND HE'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT. BUT SO WILL ANYA.

I'LL DO BETTER. I PROMISE. I WON'T FAIL OUR NEW CHILD LIKE I DID KIANI.



SIPHON, I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I'M SURE CANNON WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED THIS OUTPOURING OF COMPASSION.

THANK YOU, ASPEN. BUT HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT *UNWARRANTED*. HE NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD HIS VALUE TO THIS WORLD.

CANNON WAS OUR PROTECTOR...

...OUR MORAL COMPASS... OUR BEST CONNECTION TO THE SURFACE WORLD-- WHICH NOW MORE THAN EVER WILL BE *MISSER*.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T ASK THIS... BUT WE NEED YOU, ASPEN.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HUMANS IS IN THE BEGINNING STAGES. YOU WOULD BE A VITAL ASSET AS WE BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

YOU'VE FOUGHT FOR US TWICE BEFORE ON THE BATTLEFIELDS. NOW, PLEASE, HELP US KEEP THE PEACE.

ALL I HAVE DONE SINCE FINDING OUT ABOUT THIS WORLD HAS BEEN CONFLICT RESOLUTION. THERE ARE THE HUMANS, THE BLUE AND THE BLACK... AND ME? I'M STUCK SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL.

GOD, I'M LIKE THE OPPOSITE OF SWITZERLAND.

SWITZERLAND? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

LET'S JUST SAY, I'M TIRED OF HAVING MY NOSE STUCK IN EVERYONE ELSE'S BUSINESS.

I CAN'T FILL HIS SHOES, IF YOU ASK ME, YOU'RE ALREADY THE ONE FOR THAT JOB.



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT? A JOB OFFER?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I TURNED HIM DOWN.

GOOD FOR A MINUTE THERE, I THOUGHT THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE STAYING DOWN HERE IN THE MURKY DEPTHS.



NO OFFENSE, FINN.

YOU'RE LEAVING?

I'M SORRY, FINN. I CAN'T STAY HERE. NOT RIGHT NOW. THERE'S TOO MUCH DRAMA. THE LAST THING I NEED IS TO BE AT THE EPICENTER OF IT.

DON'T WORRY. NO MATTER HOW FAR APART WE ARE, WE'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

WE'RE FAMILY AND NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT.



LATER.

I GOTTA SAY, I
KNOW YOU LOVE THE
WATER AND ALL, BUT
I'M LOOKING FORWARD
TO BEING BACK ON
DRY LAND.

LOOK AT
THESE HANDS, I'M
LIKE PRUNE-
MAN.

ASPEN?
YOU OKAY?

YEAH.

HAVING SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT
LEAVING MURIA?

NO. IT'S
NOT THAT.

I WANT TO
HELP THEM, BUT
I NEED TO HELP
MYSELF FIRST.

EVER SINCE THIS
STARTED, I'VE BEEN PULLED IN
SO MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.
STEERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE
BECAUSE OF THOSE AROUND ME.
KILLIAN. CANNON. RAHGER.
MY FATHER.

EVEN YOU.

ME??

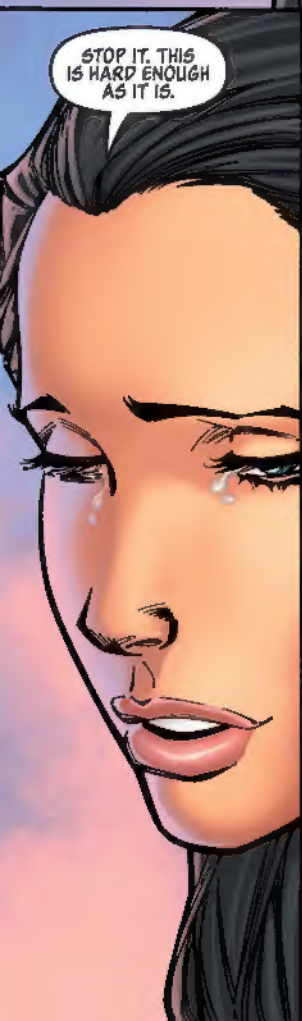
DON'T GET ME
WRONG. YOU'RE GREAT.
PROBABLY THE GREATEST
GUY I'VE EVER MET.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE ANYONE
ELSE GOING THROUGH
WHAT YOU'VE HAD TO
GO THROUGH JUST
TO BE WITH ME.

DID I
MENTION
THE PRUNE
HANDS?



STOP IT. THIS
IS HARD ENOUGH
AS IT IS.



RIGHT NOW,
YOU'RE THE ONLY
THING BRINGING ME
BACK HERE, CHANCE.
THIS... THIS ISN'T MY
LIFE ANYMORE.

I NEED TO FIND
MY PLACE IN THIS
WORLD. NOT HAVE IT
DICTATED TO ME, BUT
CHOOSE IT ON
MY OWN.



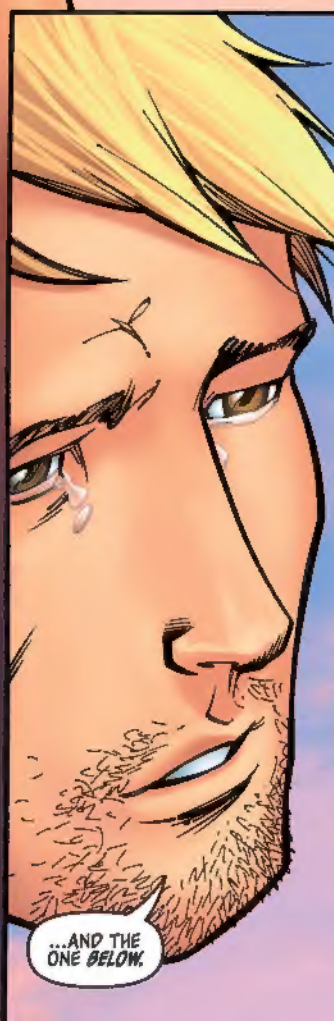
WHERE WILL
YOU GO?

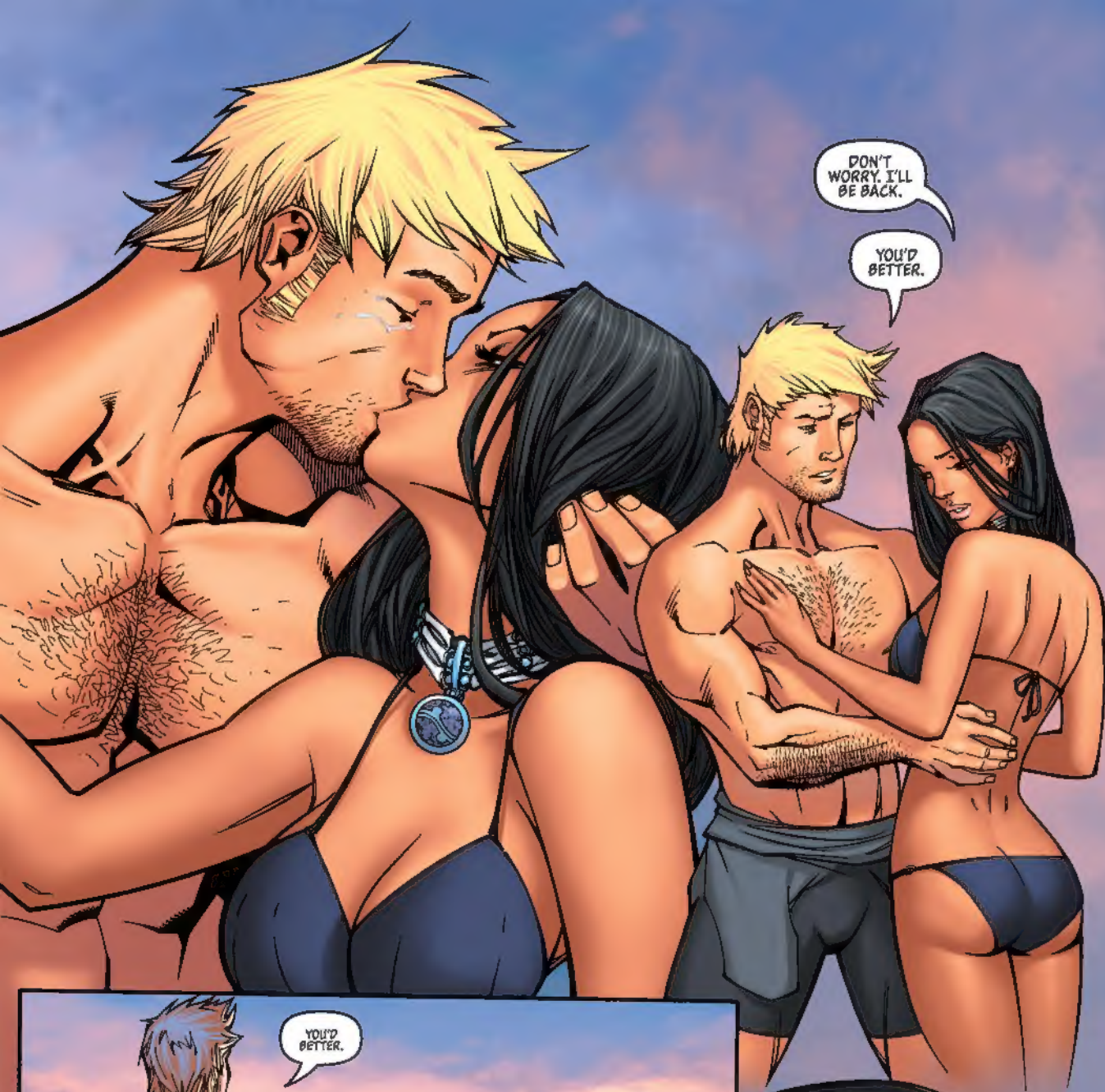
TO BE HONEST, I
DON'T KNOW.

WELL, ONE THING
I DO KNOW. YOU'RE
THE GREATEST GIRL
IN THIS WORLD...



...AND THE
ONE BELOW.



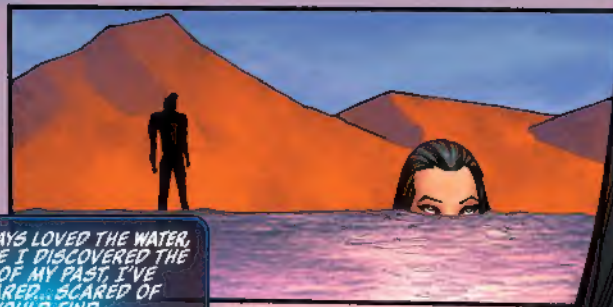


DON'T
WORRY. I'LL
BE BACK.

YOU'D
BETTER.

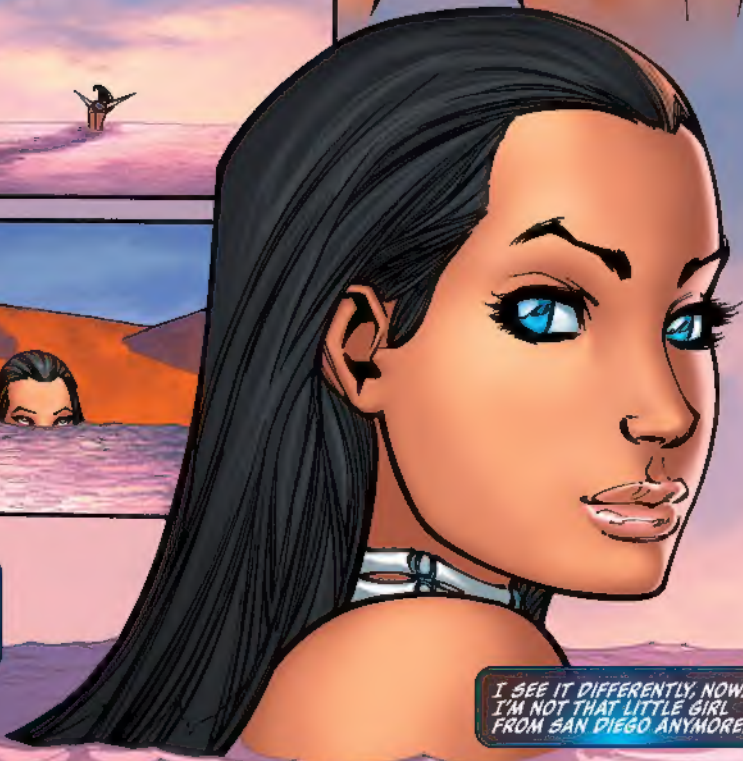


YOU'D
BETTER.



I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE WATER,
BUT SINCE I DISCOVERED THE
SECRETS OF MY PAST, I'VE
BEEN SCARED... SCARED OF
WHAT I WOULD FIND.

EACH NEW REVELATION SHATTERED
MY PREVIOUS NOTION OF WHO I
WAS, DESTROYING THE LIFE I KNEW
ONE PIECE AT A TIME. OR AT
LEAST, THAT'S HOW I SAW IT.



I SEE IT DIFFERENTLY, NOW.
I'M NOT THAT LITTLE GIRL
FROM SAN DIEGO ANYMORE.

